

Music Director opportunity

Cambridge Chorale is seeking to appoint a new Music Director (MD) from January 2023 to succeed Owain Park, who is stepping down after six years as MD.

The choir is looking for a talented, dynamic and ambitious MD, who shares its passion for high quality music-making. The successful candidate will have the vision and capability to lead and challenge one of the region's most accomplished adult chamber choirs. The appointment will be for one year initially, but with the firm expectation that it will be renewed thereafter.

Main duties

- To further develop the choir's high musical standards
- To prepare and direct weekly Thursday evening rehearsals and one full-day weekend rehearsal per term
- To conduct around five main events per season, most of which will be in and around Cambridge
- To choose and compile programmes in consultation with the **committee**
- To recommend soloists and instrumentalists as required
- To help organise/participate in additional activities, such as recordings, competitions, tours and other singing engagements as agreed with the committee
- To hold **auditions** for new members and carry out periodic vocal health checks for existing members
- To liaise closely with the committee including attending one committee meeting per term

The choir and its committee will support the MD, providing the necessary resources to develop the choir's musical quality, repertoire and reputation. We have not previously employed a rehearsal accompanist; the ability to provide some piano support during rehearsals would be of benefit, but this is not essential.

Remuneration

The choir pays its MD a monthly honorarium in addition to rehearsal and concert fees. Remuneration will be negotiated with the successful candidate, consistent with their skills and experience. We approach this with a desire to pay fair fees to a professional person, within the constraints of an amateur, not-for-profit organisation.

Person specification

The successful candidate is likely to:

- be an established professional director with experience of conducting a high quality choir
- be able to effectively coach the choir in aspects of vocal technique
- have the vision, commitment and enthusiasm to guide and develop the choir
- have excellent interpersonal skills and be able to communicate enthusiastically with choir and audience

- create an atmosphere of enjoyment and passion for music making in rehearsals and concerts
- be professional, well organised and reliable

How to apply

Applicants are invited to email their CV, the names and contact details of two professional referees and a covering letter outlining their suitability for the position to applications@cambridgechorale.org.uk by midday on Monday 5th September 2022

Download job description and background information (3 pages)

We plan to hold interviews over the weekend of Saturday 17th and Sunday 18 September 2022. Short-listed candidates will then be invited to run part of a rehearsal with the choir on the afternoon of Saturday 15th October 2022.

We appreciate that musicians are often working at weekends, so please indicate in your application if any of these dates is not feasible.

If you have any queries before submitting an application, please email applications@cambridgechorale.org.uk.

CAMBRIDGECHORALE

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. About the choir

Cambridge Chorale is an award-winning, dynamic ensemble of 40 voices committed to performing music at the highest level. Formed in 1994, the choir has established itself as one of the most accomplished adult chamber choirs in the region, performing a wide range of challenging repertoire. For further information see www.cambridgechorale.org.uk.

2. Our typical season

The choir performs around five main engagements each year, with rehearsals following the academic terms (September – July). Currently this comprises concerts that we stage and promote in and around Cambridge, plus additional concerts/events that can take us further afield. In recent years we have performed Bach's B Minor Mass with the Academy of Ancient Music to celebrate our 25th Anniversary, performed Arvo Pärt's Passio with the Gesualdo Six, recorded seasonal videos for Ely Cathedral and were invited to record some new repertoire from the Multitude of Voyces anthologies to complete their collection of recordings. This coming Christmas we have been booked to perform the closing concert at the Lamberhurst Music Festival on Sunday 11th December 2022. We released a new recording, Hymns to the Mother of God, in February 2020 and there is an upcoming new recording of Christmas music being made this year. Examples of performances can be found on our YouTube page [Cambridge Chorale - YouTube](#)

We rehearse on Thursday evenings during term-time, from 7.30pm. Rehearsals take place at Fulbourn Primary School, approximately 5 miles from Cambridge Railway Station and with easy access to the A11/A14. Each term we hold one full-day rehearsal at a weekend.

3. How we are run

The choir is a registered charity, run by an elected committee, supported by the wider choir. It is the committee's role to make decisions and act as the liaison point between the Music Director and the choir. The committee meets monthly, and the Music Director is expected to attend one meeting per term. The Music Director gives an annual report at the choir AGM, usually held in April.

4. What we are really like

The current choir membership ranges in age from 20s - 50s and covers a broad range of professions including many who work within the music industry. There is a strong sense of loyalty and camaraderie within the choir. Some travel a considerable distance each week to sing with us. We arrange occasional social events and there is a regular cohort that decamps to the pub after each rehearsal. We hope that the Music Director would want to join in with some of these activities.

Above all we are a friendly group of people, united by a love of singing and a desire to perform to a very high standard.