

# **Musical Director Job Description**

Responsible to Cheltenham Choral Society Committee

Charity No 287756

## **About us**

Cheltenham Choral Society (CCS) was founded in 1938 by Morgan Islwyn Jones. The choir currently has 55 members, comprising 22 sopranos, 21 altos, six tenors and six basses. We perform three/four concerts per year, as well as occasional less formal musical activities, such as carol singing and lunchtime recitals. Recent performances include Handel '*Messiah*', Haydn '*Nelson Mass*', Fauré '*Requiem*', Karl Jenkins '*The Peacemakers*', and '*Songs from the Shows*'.

We aim for high musical standards but also recognise the value of singing as an enjoyable social activity. We have a commitment to supporting local charities and to providing opportunities to perform for young singers and musicians.

We rehearse on Wednesday evenings from 7.30 – 9.30 at the Bethesda Methodist Church Hall, 18 Great Norwood Street, Cheltenham, GL50 2AP.

## **Job Description**

### **Purpose**

To direct and develop choral music, provide overall artistic vision and direction, and develop the musical training of the members.

### **Key Responsibilities**

Prepare the choir at rehearsals in works chosen with the agreement of the CCS Committee

Conduct the choir and other performers at concerts

Support and develop the musical skills of the choir members

Ensure that the highest possible musical standards are achieved both at rehearsals and concerts, consistent with CCS's musical and financial resources

Advise on works to be performed within a timeframe and budget as discussed with the Committee

Make recommendations to the Committee for the engagement of musicians/players needed for concerts

Advise and assist the Committee in the artistic direction of CCS

Promote the good name and reputation of the Society.

### **Other responsibilities**

Provide a suitable substitute conductor if unable to attend a rehearsal

Conduct rehearsals for the choir, musicians and soloists in the afternoon before a concert

Attend Committee meetings in an advisory capacity, as requested by the Committee

Provide a performance report at the AGM

Occasionally undertake additional duties, eg recording sessions, one-off singing events, as agreed with the Committee.

### **Professional and Personal Specification**

You will be

- A professional musician with appropriate qualifications, ability and experience of conducting a mixed voice choir
- Enthusiastic, approachable and responsive to members of the Society
- Prepared to collaborate with other choirs/conductors as required, eg for the performance of larger works

You will have

- Experience of orchestral conducting
- Experience of voice training and development of skills for amateur singers of mixed ability
- Good keyboard skills
- A wide knowledge of the choral repertoire
- The ability to motivate and inspire

## **Application Process**

To apply, send a letter of application plus a full CV to our Chair, Sue Hartland at [info@cheltchoral.org.uk](mailto:info@cheltchoral.org.uk).

The letter should outline your suitability for the post, and the CV should include your qualifications and experience, and the details of someone we could contact to provide a reference for you.

Applications close on **29 March 2019**.

Interviews and auditions for short-listed candidates will take place on Wednesday evenings during May 2019. This will involve a rehearsal with the choir, including familiar works and teaching something new.

Remuneration and fees will be discussed at the interview, and are guided by recommendations made by Making Music and the musicians' unions, and the contract will be based on the Making Music template.

We look forward to receiving your application.