



The Derwentio Choir

Derwentio Choir Derby

Musical Director

Job Description and Person Specification

The Derwentio Choir is an amateur adult SATB choir of approximately 40 - 45 members with a wide range of musical ability.

The choir meets on a Tuesday evening in Allestree, Derby, across 42 weeks of the year, usually with a 2 week break at Christmas and Easter, and a 6 week break in the summer.

There are usually about 6 concerts a year, 3 in the summer and 3 in the winter, although this pattern has begun to vary as the choir's reputation has grown.

The choir generally performs light choral repertoire, both sacred and secular, such as madrigals, songs from the shows, folk songs, spirituals, rock and pop classics etc. See the choir website for a list of our recent repertoire.

The choir is managed by a committee elected annually from amongst its members.

The role of the Musical Director is to help the choir to enjoy singing, to experience different musical styles, to continuously improve musically both as individuals and as a group, and to achieve a high standard of performance in concert.

The Musical Director takes charge of all aspects of the musical development and progress of the choir, liaising closely with the accompanist, chairman and committee as appropriate.

Among the specific duties of the Musical Director are:-

1. Repertoire/Programme

Choose the repertoire for concerts, taking account of preferences and the choir's extensive music library. Choir members are encouraged to make suggestions for performance but the final say lies with the Musical Director.

The programme should be planned well in advance and given to the committee at least two months before start of term to allow time for the music to be collated.

The Musical Director is also responsible for the order of the programme in concert.

2. Rehearsals

Draw up a rehearsal programme for each term, share it with the accompanist and choir members on a weekly basis, and conduct the weekly rehearsals. The rehearsals will be planned to ensure effective performance at concerts and will include a vocal warm up period.

The Musical Director will be expected to be available for all rehearsals but, in conjunction with the committee, in the event of an unavoidable absence, to provide a substitute and to ensure cover is available in the absence of the accompanist.



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3. Choir Development

Plan and assist with activities to develop singing or attract new members. The choir follows a policy of open membership and does not have auditions. However, in the interests of the balance of the choir, the Musical Director may make decisions on membership and undertake voice tests where appropriate to ensure that individuals are placed within the correct part.

4. Soloists

Select soloists from the choir when required. The choir has a policy of encouraging and developing soloists from within its own ranks.

5. Concerts

Conduct the choir at concerts.

Liaise with the Committee over the practicalities of the venues. Check any proposed new venues for their suitability.

6. Practice files, website content and communication with the choir

Approve all practice files (preferably via Sibelius) and agree final website musical content (creation of practice files and maintenance of the website is handled by the IT Manager).

Communication by email to the choir and concert attendance is managed via 'Muzodo' (an easy to use tool which complies with GDPR, and for which training will be given).

7. Committee

Attend committee meetings as required as an ex officio member.

8. Expenses

The post is not currently salaried but the Musical Director is offered reasonable expenses for both rehearsals and performances.

9. Notice

The post is offered on an indefinite basis, terminated on either side by three months' notice in writing, and subject to a successful 6 month probationary period.

Choir website: www.derventiochoir.org.uk

Choir email: derventiochoir@hotmail.co.uk



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Skills and attributes needed:

- Friendly and approachable with a good sense of humour, making rehearsals and concerts enjoyable and rewarding
- An enthusiastic leader with good communication and team building skills
- Professional, organised and reliable in all aspects of the role with demonstrable coaching skills
- Ability to conduct and teach a large choir of mixed musical abilities
- Knowledge of choral music from a variety of genres
- Ability to select appropriate and balanced repertoire to extend, challenge and nurture the membership whilst keeping audiences entertained
- Ability to work collaboratively with the choir committee, accompanist and the choir membership
- Prepared to make a firm commitment to the choir and to be its advocate, with a passionate commitment to the choir's development and sustainability
- Ability to play the piano is useful but not essential as the choir has a regular accompanist

Enquiries about this opportunity should be directed to the choir chairman Jan Eccleston on 01773 745942.

Expressions of interest and a brief CV detailing your experience and what you feel you can bring to the choir to be submitted to Jan Eccleston on alanandjan@outlook.com

We welcome applications up to and including Thursday February 28th 2019.

Interviews will take place in the spring of 2019 and will include attending a rehearsal and conducting the choir for part of it.