

Wallingford Chorus is Seeking Musical Director for Spring 2018

About Us:

The Wallingford Chorus is a 47-year old organization comprised of 50 members, young and old, who seek to have fun, improve the quality of their voices, learn musicality, and build friendships through the singing of choral music. We present 2 concerts a year to the community of Wallingford (one in December and one in May), attracting an average audience of 350 people at each concert. Most recently, our concerts have featured more popular and contemporary choral music.

About the Position:

We are seeking a Musical Director eager to work with us to usher in the next evolution of our chorus.

The ideal candidate will not only lead productive rehearsals and teach us the best way to interpret the music, s/he will also be an active advocate for the chorus. S/he will work with the board to build relationships within the community and to expand our network with other performing groups, instrumentalists, and soloists. The musical director will be an integral part of our goal to creatively collaborate with other singers and musicians in an effort to attract new chorus members and new audience members to musical performances in Wallingford.

This will be a 6-month, contracted engagement which will start on December 1, 2017. The December start date is intended to give the new director at least one month to prepare for the Spring 2018 semester which will begin rehearsal on January 9, 2018. The contract will end at the closing of our Spring concert tentatively scheduled for May 19, 2018.

At the end of the engagement, upon mutual agreement by the musical director and the chorus, there may be the opportunity to renew the contract for the full 2018-2019 concert season.

Primary Responsibilities of the Musical Director will be:

Programming each concert - Propose the theme, select the music, secure physical copies of the sheet music, identify what additional voices or instruments are needed, and submit a concert budget

Leading Rehearsals -- The director's attendance and focus at all rehearsals and the concert are critical to the success of our chorus. Rehearsals are held Tuesdays, 7:30pm-9:30pm, at Lyman Hall High School, 70 Pond Hill Road, Wallingford, CT in the Band Room. The Spring 2018 concert is anticipated to be held at the Church of the Resurrection, 115 Pond Hill Road, Wallingford, CT.

Teaching Music -- Our members span the spectrum in terms of age, experience, and vocal ability. The ideal director will be able to gauge where our challenges are and apply a variety of teaching methods till the music is learned by everyone.

Initiating and Maintaining Collaborative Partnerships -- Collaborating with other musical groups is core goal of the Wallingford Chorus. The Musical Director will identify other performing groups in the area with whom a partnership might be mutually beneficial, and will propose opportunities for collaboration to both the Wallingford Chorus Board of Directors and representatives from the other groups.

Direct Public Performances -- Serve as the master of ceremonies for our regularly scheduled concerts. Work with any partners to logistically integrate their performances into the overall flow of the chorus concert.

Job Requirements:

- Experience leading rehearsals and performing concerts of choral music
- Familiarity with choral music and creating choral programs
- Experience with multi-generational, mixed-voice, community-based chorus a plus
- Strong musical leadership ability (applicants will be required to lead a trial rehearsal with the chorus)
- Flexibility and willingness to perform both contemporary, traditional, and sacred music
- Willingness to work with the chorus leadership to choose a creative theme for each concert and to select music to effectively support that theme
- Attendance at all scheduled Tuesday night rehearsals, the Dress Rehearsal on the Friday before the concert, and at the Spring Concert anticipated to be Saturday, May 19, 2017
- Ability to attend one or two rehearsals in the Winter 2017 semester to prep for the Spring 2018 program
- Serious enough mindset to focus in rehearsal, but with an infectious love of music and an ability to share the joy of making music with others

Optional Requirements:

Attendance and Participation at meetings of the Chorus Board of Directors. Board meetings are held on the first Sunday of every month during the concert season at 2pm at the Wallingford Parks and Rec building (6 Fairfield Blvd, Wallingford, CT). The first required board meeting for the new musical director will be January 7, 2018. The board may extend an invitation to attend the November 3, 2017 meeting.

Salary:

The salary range for this 6-month, contracted engagement is \$2400 - \$3200 commensurate with experience.

To Apply:

Send an email and resume to wallingfordchorus@gmail.com. If possible, please include a video sample of you leading a choral group either as an attachment or as a link. Deadline for applications is September 23, 2017. Interviews will be held during the month of October 2017. We anticipate making an employment offer in November 2017.