



HENLEY YOUTH CHOIR: MUSICAL DIRECTORSHIP

General Information

Henley Choral Society (HCS) is seeking an enthusiastic Musical Director, starting in September 2021, for our Henley Youth Choir (HYC). Henley Youth Choir is part of Henley Choral Society and considered one of our most important achievements. The Youth Choir has both Junior and Senior sections. With renewed enthusiasm, we are looking to rebuild our numbers to those pre-Covid. As with the parent choir, both HYC sections are non-auditioned.

HYC enjoys strong support from the parent choir, HCS, joining together to sing at their sell-out Christmas concerts. The HYC Manager/Administrator has a musical and teaching background and is one of the HYC Founders, working closely with the MD to ensure the efficient running of HYC. Other HCS members act as HYC volunteer helpers at rehearsals and performances, and are part of an energetic and supportive committee. The HYC committee maintains close links with the committee of HCS, a registered charity.

Rehearsals

Rehearsals are held from 5.30pm to 7.00pm on Thursdays during term time (although a change in evening would be considered for the most suitable candidate) in the Community Centre in the centre of Henley-on-Thames and are accompanied by Anita D'Attellis, a highly talented accompanist and concert pianist. The first part of the evening, 5.30pm to 6.15pm is attended by the Junior section and the Seniors' rehearsals run from 6.15pm to 7.00pm.

Concerts and performances

One of the highlights of each term is the end-of-term performance. Performances have included at the Henley Youth Festival, at Henley Festival's popular Family Day, and recordings for both BBC Radio Oxford and BBC Radio Berkshire.

The HYC committee is open to ideas for alternative or additional performances and opportunities for the young people in HYC. As MD, s/he would be responsible for preparing for and conducting HYC at their concerts. The chosen candidate would also ideally be available and willing to take part in activities within the community, such as school workshops, which would be held during the day. HCS is committed to continue to build opportunities for young singers in Henley.

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www.henleychoralsociety.org.uk

Registered Charity Number 276728



Musical Director - Job Description

We are looking for a Musical Director with a dynamic and enthusiastic approach to music-making with children. S/he will have experience working with children and have ideas about how to develop a love of singing across the age groups. They must be able to educate, encourage, challenge and inspire while getting the very best out of children from the youngest to the teenagers.

Candidates should demonstrate an ambition to continue to develop the two HYC choirs and have a positive 'can-do' attitude that extends beyond taking rehearsals and conducting concerts. This would be demonstrated by working with the HYC Manager/Administrator and the HYC committee, supporting the concerts in the run up to and on performance days, joining in social events and seeing him/herself at the very centre of a strong community. We are keen to continue to build contacts with local schools through school workshops and envisage the new MD helping to set up and run these.

We wish to continue the close relationship between the youth and the adult choirs. It will be important for the two MDs to work together co-operatively to maintain and develop this relationship. Peter Asprey is the Musical Director of HCS.

The HYC Musical Director will be responsible for recommending music for forthcoming concerts to the HYC committee in a timely manner. Both youth choirs enjoy singing a wide variety of music including songs from musicals, jazz & more popular music as well as classical & folk. They will be expected to produce realistic rehearsal schedules that prepare the choir to a high performance standard and to help prepare budgets for concerts that are within the Society's means. They will be expected to contribute ideas and comments to the HYC Committee as an ex-officio member, although attendance in person is encouraged. The committee meets approximately twice a term.

It would be expected that the HYC Musical Director would commit to all rehearsals and concerts. By prior agreement with the HYC Manager/Administrator, the successful candidate would be responsible for finding a suitable deputy on occasions when they are not able to attend rehearsal, but in any event, this should not exceed two rehearsals in any one term.

The ideal candidate would be in a position to commit to directing HYC for a minimum of 2 years, reviewable annually thereafter. A mutual 6 months' notice period would apply after an initial probationary period of 6 months or after the appointee's first concert, whichever is the longer.

Remuneration is negotiable. We offer good rates of pay and reasonable travel expenses to be invoiced to the Henley Choral Society's Treasurer monthly in arrears.

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How to Apply

Please send a letter by email clearly demonstrating your suitability for the post to Carol Kelly (Deputy Chair of HCS) carol.kelly1@btinternet.com with a copy to Fi Harding (HYC Manager/Administrator) Fi.harding@sky.com

Applications should arrive no later than **12pm on Friday 28th May** and shortlisted candidates will be advised by **Monday 7th June**.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited for an interview and audition on the afternoon/evening of **Thursday 17th June** & will be sent details of the time and format of the audition.

Candidates are requested to enclose a copy of their current CV, and to include details of the following in their application:

- Musical and other relevant qualifications;
- Musical experience;
- The range of music you would like to introduce to the choir;
- Experience of working with children;
- Ideas for motivating children across the age range;
- Other musical commitments;
- Your preferred email address.

The appointment will be subject to DBS check.

Sending your contact details will be taken as consent for Henley Choral Society and Henley Youth Choir to keep these on record for the purpose of this search for an MD.

For more information about HYC, please go to www.henleychoralsociety.org.uk/youth-choirs/ or www.facebook.com/HenleyYouthChoir

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