

Choir Overview

Who we are

The Pentland Singers is a community choir based in Balerno for over 30 years but attracting members from a much wider area. The choir is open to as many people as possible and includes singers of all abilities and ages. Auditions are not required to join the choir. We believe that choral music brings joy to those singing as well as those listening. In addition to the main choir there is also a junior choir, the Pentland Junior Singers, with their own musical director. Our performances, together with the Pentland Junior Singers, have enabled us to donate money to a wide variety of good causes and charities. We also donate time by singing in events to support other charities. A committee of members elected at the AGM and headed by a chairperson runs the choir.

What we do

The main activity of the choir is a summer and a Christmas concert held in Balerno High School in June and December respectively. Rehearsals are held every Tuesday evening during term time in Balerno Parish Church from 7.30 to 9.30pm. We sing a wide variety of choral music, from classical to popular; religious to secular; straightforward to very challenging, to suit the wide range of musical tastes and abilities of choir members. Audiences are drawn in the main from friends and family of choir members. Concert programmes usually consist of two halves linked by a performance of the Pentland Junior Singers and a short intermission. Sometimes a short performance by the accompanist is also included in the programme. Concert programmes are usually constructed around a central theme with a balance of musical styles and levels of difficulty e.g. "Cathedral to Chorus Line", "A Sprig of Thyme" and "Christmas at the Movies". In recent years the choir has worked together with other choirs to tackle major choral works such as Faure's Requiem, Puccini's *Messa di Gloria* and Brahms' *En Deutches Requiem*. In rehearsing and performing this diverse repertoire we aspire for continuous development, both at the individual and collective level.

In addition to its main activity the choir also takes part in the annual Balerno Music Festival held in September. This usually consists of a come and sing event open to the public with a rehearsal in the afternoon followed by an early evening performance. Previous events have included come and sing ABBA, Queen, the Beatles and a scratch Messiah. The choir has also participated in the "St. Giles at Six" series of summer concerts and is keen to repeat that experience. Regular requests are received from various organisations asking for the choir's participation in their events, especially around Christmas time and they are usually well supported by the choir. Over and above the existing commitments of the choir, it has long been the desire of some choir members to set up a "concert party" able to perform regularly for the wider community.

What we need

Someone who;

- has previous experience as a Musical Director of a community based mixed ability choir
- has a minimum of three years experience as a Musical Director in a similar role
- is an accomplished conductor
- has a degree in music or a combination of qualifications and experience
- is a singer
- is able to communicate effectively with people who have a wide range of ability to read music
- has good interpersonal skills
- has a track record of producing concert programmes that appeal to a range of musical tastes and are popular with audiences
- can match the choir's enthusiasm and hard work
- is able to encourage and continuously develop the choir's musicality, skills and performance
- is able to work with other professional musicians when required and has good contacts in the music world
- is able to commit the necessary time to support the full range of activities undertaken by the choir
- is able to manage time and work under pressure to tight deadlines
- is able to manage the demands of numerous tasks
- is a self motivator and is able to motivate others
- is willing to go that extra mile to ensure a successful outcome
- is able to work with the committee in planning varied programmes and contribute to the overall running of the choir

What we offer

The post is offered on the basis of a three-year term extendable to five years by mutual consent and will be governed by a contract of employment. Remuneration is currently set at £37.50 per hour based on an average of 100 plus hours per year and is subject to annual appraisal and review. The choir is open to discuss the possibility of offering an annual all-in salary as an alternative. A notice period of three months is required on either side.