

The Pentland Junior Singers - Choir Overview

Who we are

The Pentland Junior Singers is a youth choir for South West Edinburgh, based in Balerno for children aged 8 to 14. We rehearse in Balerno Parish Church, 6pm to 7pm, every Tuesday during term time from September till June. Our aim is to develop and share the pleasure, fun and joy of singing. We believe that choral music brings joy to those singing as well as to those listening. Auditions are not required to join the choir. The children have varying levels of singing and musical ability. The Pentland Junior Singers are supported by the Pentland Singers. The Junior Choir Co-ordinator represents the choir at committee meetings and attends every rehearsal. We perform twice a year at the Pentland Singers Summer and Christmas Concerts. We have competed successfully in the Edinburgh Competition Festival winning two sections in March 2019.

What we do

We offer children the opportunity to experience and develop their love of singing choral music in a vocally healthy and fun environment. The children explore a range of styles throughout the year from more traditional choral repertoire to folk and world songs, and songs from shows and films. There is a focus on developing healthy singing techniques and to develop unison, two part and three part harmony. During weekly rehearsals the children have been working to develop their musicianship and sight reading skills through Kodaly based singing games and the learning of solfege notation. The children respond well to the combination of games and more formal singing, delivered in a positive and fun manner.

The culmination of the Winter and Summer Terms is to perform in the Pentland Singers Christmas and Summer Concerts which are held for two nights each in December and June. The Pentland Junior Singers perform around a 15 minute section in the first half of the concert. We have on occasion performed along with the adult choir. We have successfully competed in the Edinburgh Competition Festival held in March. This year we won the Scots Song Competition and the Choir of Mixed Ages Competition. We were honoured to perform in the end of competition Gala Performance in the Queens Hall

The Pentland Junior Singers recently received funding to publicise the choir. We have developed a web site www.pentlandjuniors.org, twitter <https://twitter.com/SingersJunior> and facebook <https://www.facebook.com/JuniorSingersBalerno/>. The Pentland Junior Singers have performed at the Balerno Music Festival and last year hosted their first Come and Sing event. "Come and Sing The Greatest Showman". After last years success we are hosting "Come and Sing Disney" on the 28th September.

The Pentland Junior Singers will from time to time give short performances to parents and the adult choir at the end of a rehearsal.

There are three sessions a year, the first is from September to December, the second is from January to Easter and the third from Easter to June. In line with school holidays.

We do not have an accompanist for the Pentland Juniors except for two to three weeks before concerts or competitions.

What we need

Someone who;

- has previous experience of working with children to develop choral singing
- has previous experience as a Musical Director in a similar role
- has clear conducting skills
- has a degree in music or a combination of qualifications and teaching experience
- is a singer
- can play the piano
- is able to communicate effectively with children aged 8 to 14 years old
- 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 healthy singing techniques, 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 a self motivator and is able to motivate others
- is able to assist with the recruitment of new members, possibly visiting schools
- is willing to go that extra mile to ensure a successful outcome
- is able to work with the Committee Chairperson/ Adult Choir Musical Director/Junior Choir Co-ordinator in planning varied programmes and contribute to the overall running of the choir
- has Disclosure Scotland PVG Children

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 £35.00 per hour based around 40 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.