



APPOINTMENT OF MUSICAL DIRECTOR

INTRODUCTION

The Iceni Choir (“the choir”) is a full SATB choir with a membership of around 40 men and women drawn principally from mid-Norfolk. It was formed in 2007 by James Lilwall who was Musical Director until 2012 after which Christine Dix took up the appointment. Christine retired at the end of 2015 to pursue her own professional musical interests and Harry Castle took over while teaching at the Norwich Cathedral School. Now that Harry has left Norfolk to finish his professional studies we are looking for a new MD. The choir currently rehearses in Reepham.

The Committee of Iceni Choir therefore wishes to make a new appointment at the earliest opportunity. The chairman is currently acting MD until a new appointment is made.

PROFILE OF THE CHOIR

The choir is made up of men and women of mixed musical ability and experience. Many enthusiastic members have limited sight reading skills and little or no prior choral experience and develop their skills through experience in the choir and through the teaching they receive as part of their rehearsals with the choir, aided by the online digital and other teaching aids that that choir provides to members. These can be accessed by members via a dedicated page on the choir’s website (www.icenichoir.org).

The choir’s ability and reputation for a high standard of performance has grown considerably over the last few years and the choir has been lucky to work with these experienced musicians and vocal teachers. Their enthusiasm, dedication and determination that the choir should reach the highest standard possible has enabled it to present some of the more challenging choral works such as Mozart’s Requiem (with orchestra and professional soloists), Faure’s Requiem and works by Britten and others.

However, a distinctive feature of the choir is its versatility and its ability to perform music of contrasting styles to entertain and attract good audiences. In each of the last three years the choir has successfully performed a programme of music featuring selections from musicals from the repertoires of Jerome Kern, Rodgers and Hammerstein, Cole Porter, Leonard Bernstein, Lerner and Loewe and others. As a further mark of its versatility, in 2014 members of the choir also performed a semi-staged selection of “trench songs” from World War 1, which was widely acclaimed.

The choir regards itself as being friendly and welcoming. It is run by a committee appointed by choir members each year at an Annual General Meeting. The choir is solvent and run on a business-like basis. The choir has a professional and experienced accompanist and meets for 2 hours each week, currently on Wednesdays, for approximately 40 weeks of the year.

With the appointment of a new Musical Director the choir wishes to maintain its versatility and to progress and reach yet greater heights.

The appointment is remunerated to cover time and expenses. The committee also awards a bonus to both the MD and accompanist if funds allow based on the success of the performances and financial outturn of the year.

PROFILE OF NEW MUSICAL DIRECTOR

The choir wishes to continue from the level already achieved, maintaining a versatile repertoire whilst continuing to stretch itself to meet even greater challenges in future performances.

With these aims in mind the choir believes the Musical Director must ideally fulfil the following criteria.

Musical Experience:

- A musician with experience and/or training with choral music
- Keyboard player
- Knowledge of vocal techniques and teaching
- Experience of conducting
- Good relevant musical contacts
- Willingness to work on a wide-ranging repertoire

Personal Attributes:

- Committed and enthusiastic
- Ambition to take the choir to a higher level
- Leadership skills with patience and diplomacy
- Willingness to work with people of all adult ages and levels of experience
- Team-player and ability to work within the choir committee
- Organised and well prepared
- Able to attract new members of all ages
- Ability to inspire the choir and to join with its continuing musical journey

With the committee's support the new Musical Director would be responsible for helping plan its concerts.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Application by letter or email to Committee Chairman, James Lilwall with brief CV and outline of how you consider you might fit the requirement, your availability etc. The final appointment will be made by the Committee on behalf of the choir.

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