



Stafford Choral Society

www.stafford-choral.org.uk

Post of Musical Director

Stafford Choral Society is seeking an outstanding choral musician with a proven track record of leading amateur choirs to become its Musical Director from September 2018. We have just completed our 70th anniversary year, culminating in a performance of Elgar's *The Dream of Gerontius* in Lichfield Cathedral with soloists Robert Murray, Catherine Wyn-Rogers and Matthew Brook under the leadership of our current Musical Director, David Young. The Choir has made significant strides forward in recent years under David's direction, and is now one of the leading choirs of its type in the Midlands. We are now looking to appoint another outstanding conductor who will continue to inspire the choir and lead our ongoing development.

The society currently has around 100 members and is open to anyone who enjoys making music. We rehearse on Monday evenings from 7.15-9.15pm in a purpose-built suite with a Yamaha grand piano and acoustic paneling at Entrust Training Centre, Stafford. We employ an excellent professional accompanist who is also Assistant Musical Director of the choir, and more than capable of taking both sectional and full rehearsals.

We currently give four performances each season. A concert in late November is followed just before Christmas by an annual performance of Handel's *Messiah*, the proceeds of which are put towards local musical charities. Our next concert in early May forms part of the Stafford Music Festival, usually with a full orchestra and vocal soloists, and we have recently instated a summer concert in July, accompanied by piano only. Most of our performances take place in Rising Brook Baptist Church, which has ample backstage facilities and space for an audience of between 250-350 depending on the size of ensemble performing with us.

The choir has a broad repertoire, ranging from traditional oratorio to 20th and 21st century works: in addition to *The Dream of Gerontius*, we have recently performed large scale choral works such as Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, Durufle's *Requiem* and Beethoven's *Mass in C*. We have also enjoyed immensely performing Will Todd's *Mass in Blue*, Rutter's *Feel the Spirit* and *The Manchester Carols* by Sasha Johnson-Manning and Carol Ann Duffy (with the composer as soloist). Please see our website (<http://stafford-choral.org.uk/about/past-performances/>) for further details of past concerts and photographs of rehearsals and performances, and please feel free to look us up on Facebook as well.

As our Musical Director, your main duty will be to conduct rehearsals on Monday evenings between September and July, and all concerts through the year. You will be expected to work closely with the Assistant Musical Director in planning this musical side of the choir's running, and with the Chair and committee members to ensure the Society's smooth running and holistic development. You will work with the Planning Committee to explore options for future concerts and will be responsible for booking soloists and co-ordinating orchestral players – although we do have an outstanding regular orchestral partner in The Brayside Orchestra.

Remuneration is £130 for each rehearsal (with approximately 38 rehearsals between September and mid July), and between £500-1000 per concert depending on the scale of performance. Reasonable travel expenses are payable on top of this. This is payable monthly upon submission of an invoice. Overall, you can expect to earn between £6000-7500 per season.

You should be:

- An accomplished musician
- Able to demonstrate an understanding of vocal technique
- Able to motivate and inspire
- Able to deliver exciting and enjoyable rehearsals to a high musical standard
- A good communicator
- Well organised

You should have experience of:

- Working with amateur choirs
 - Working with professional instrumentalists (desirable)
 - Planning choir programmes
 - Working with a committee
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If reading this has caught your interest and you feel up to the challenge, please get in touch with us for more information, or apply directly by submitting:

- Your CV with full details of your musical qualifications and experience.
- A letter explaining your motivation for applying and how you would see your role as Musical Director of Stafford Choral Society.
- A prospective programme for **one whole season** (September 2018 – July 2019) with Stafford Choral Society. Include three concerts, as described in paragraph three but omitting *Messiah*. Space constraints in Rising Brook allow for an orchestra of up to around 40 players with double winds and a relatively small brass section. You have a maximum budget of **£10000** for external instrumentalists, soloists and orchestral scores across the season. Please bear past repertoire in mind, and you may also wish to consider anniversaries of historical events which fall within this time.
- Details of two referees who can vouch for your professional musical work.

Candidates who are short-listed will be invited to interview, and asked to take a 40 minute rehearsal with the choir at a date to be arranged.

Please send or email your application to:

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