



Artistic Director Choral Arts Society of Washington

The Choral Arts Society of Washington seeks an Artistic Director to succeed its esteemed founding Director, Norman Scribner, in leading this critically acclaimed adult chorus of 175 members.

Recognized as one of the nation's premier symphonic choruses, Choral Arts performs primarily major choral/orchestral works, in an annual season at The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Over its 46-year history, Choral Arts has performed under the batons of many of the world's leading conductors, appears regularly with the National Symphony Orchestra, and collaborates with the London Symphony Orchestra and with the Mariinsky Orchestra under the direction of Valery Gergiev in London and New York. Several hundred works, representing all periods, have been performed and are included within its discography.

This worldwide search is being conducted by a committee comprising members of the Choral Arts board and an international team of music advisors.

Candidates will be expected to have an established and critically acclaimed reputation for excellence in artistic achievement with choruses, orchestras and soloists; to be engaged and excited by the creative process; and to have a demonstrated ability to build on the organization's high-quality reputation.

The Artistic Director will report directly to Choral Arts' Board of Directors, and will work closely with the Executive Director, who supervises a full-time staff of eight. Engagement will begin in mid-2012 with preparation for the 2012-2013 concert season.

POSITION DESCRIPTION

The Artistic Director will be required to prepare a minimum of five engagements per season and to conduct most or all engagements. The season typically commences in September and ends the following June. Each engagement normally consists of one to three performances.

PRIMARY JOB RESPONSIBILITIES

- Develop the program for the annual concert season in collaboration with the Executive Director.
- Present the season and annual activities to the Board of Directors.
- Represent Choral Arts as the artistic leader of the organization.
- Develop collaborative relations for chorus performance opportunities in the metropolitan D.C. area, nationally and internationally.
- Prepare chorus for performance engagements by other artistic entities.
- Periodically organize and prepare a chamber choir for special events or chamber music performances.
- Engage in fundraising and public relations events and activities.
- Audition all current and potential chorus members.

- Schedule and conduct weekly chorus rehearsals during the season and such additional rehearsals as are needed to prepare for each performance.
- Contract soloists, orchestral musicians and accompanists, and schedule and conduct all rehearsals needed prior to performance.
- Conduct performances.
- Oversee the education and community outreach programs and performances.
- Work closely with the Executive Director to stay within budget and commit to maintain the fiscal integrity of Choral Arts as a high priority.

EXPERIENCE/SKILLS REQUIREMENTS

- Established reputation for excellent and inspired artistic achievement in leading choral and orchestral musicians with soloists.
- Extensive knowledge of the standard choral and choral/orchestral repertoire, and strong knowledge of music of our time.
- Expertise in vocal technique, languages and choral diction.
- Skilled as a creative and exciting artistic leader
- Demonstrated ability to carry out key functions, including:
 - attract and retain highly qualified choral singers and promote their continued musical development
 - select repertoire of high artistic merit that inspires performers and audiences
 - recruit outstanding soloists and high-quality orchestral musicians
 - effectively prepare choruses for varied and challenging repertoire
 - proficiently and artistically conduct both choral/instrumental and a cappella repertoire
 - enhance the organization's reputation and visibility locally, nationally and internationally
 - vigorously and effectively represent the organization to the broader community
 - interpret and annotate master scores for chorus, accompanists, instrumentalists and soloists
 - work effectively with a Board of Directors and a professional staff
- Advanced degree strongly preferred.

JOB LOCATION, SALARY AND TIMING

- Position headquartered in Washington, DC
- Salary commensurate with experience and services rendered
- This position commences in mid-2012 with preparation for the 2012-13 Season

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Interested candidates meeting the above qualifications should apply by submitting electronically the following materials:

- Letter of application
- Curriculum vitae
- Completed application cover sheet (available at <http://www.choralarts.org/About-Us/Artistic-Director-Search.aspx>)

Submissions should be sent by email to ADSearch@ChoralArts.org. In the unlikely event that a candidate is unable to apply by email, he or she may mail three copies of each above-listed item to Artistic Director Search, Choral Arts Society of Washington, 5225 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Suite 603, Washington, DC 20015 (materials will not be returned).

The position will remain open until it has been filled.

Choral Arts Society of Washington is an Equal Opportunity Employer