

The Phoenix Singers is a chamber choir of 20-30 singers, drawn broadly from the Taunton area of Somerset. We aspire to high standards, challenging music and interesting, eclectic programmes that both educate and entertain.

Our repertoire is extremely varied, from sacred music and services, through dramatic, large-scale pieces with orchestral accompaniment, to lighter folksongs, madrigals and other choral works. Our concerts and services also often include performances from smaller groups of singers from within the choir, vocal solos and instrumental performances, both from guests and choir members. This variety is enjoyed and appreciated by both choir members and our loyal audience. Although we rehearse in the same place each week, we serve a wide geographical area and sing in many different venues, including churches, dedicated performance spaces and country houses. A typical year includes three concerts, in autumn, spring and summer, plus a fourth commitment to a service of Nine Lessons and Carols each Christmas.

We are now seeking a **new Musical Director**, after twenty-two years under Andrew Maddocks. His/her responsibilities will include the following:

- **Conducting three concerts and one service per year** (plus any additional ad hoc events such as weddings)
- **Leading rehearsals** for each of these engagements (around 30 rehearsals in a year, concentrated into term-time Tuesday evenings, 7.45pm-9.30pm in Taunton School)
- **Attending committee meetings** (two per term) in an *ex officio* capacity. The MD is supported in all administration by the committee and is thus not expected to handle tasks such as detailed concert arrangements (these are the responsibility of the Concert Manager), chairing meetings (Chair) or managing advertising (Administrator/Publicity Officer)
- **Choosing suitable concert repertoire** and providing written programme notes in a timely manner, in discussion with the Treasurer and Concert Manager regarding financial and practical arrangements, and with an eye to preserving the high standards and varied diet that both choir and audience members value
- **Choosing suitable repertoire programme for the Nine Lessons and Carols service**, in collaboration with the Trustees
- **Auditioning** any new members; re-auditioning any existing members as appropriate; choosing singers for any small group work; auditioning and identifying the possible need for supernumeraries; auditioning any new choral scholars. The choir may have up to four young choral scholars each year drawn from local schools, who receive a bursary from the choir to support their musical education
- **Seeking out accompanists and/or other musicians** as necessary to support the demands of the concert programmes

**We are seeking someone with:**

- **Demonstrable talent as a conductor** with exceptional vocal coaching skills. This includes familiarity with singing in whichever **languages** the music demands, as well as Latin and English
- Relevant experience and **understanding of a variety of musical genres**, able to embrace the variety of music currently enjoyed by the Phoenix singers and our audience
- The ability to **choose music suitable for each occasion and each audience**, as well as respecting our mix of voices, ability and what can be achieved in the rehearsal time available
- The **confidence to take over and lead a choir** that has been very lucky to be served so ably by Andrew Maddocks for so many years. Our new MD needs to be able to (and able to help the choir to) strike a balance between respecting that legacy and embracing change
- **A flair for organisation** to ensure a smooth interface with the committee

**Remuneration will be c. £1600 pa** paid in quarterly instalments in arrears and the successful candidate should expect to take his/her first rehearsal at **the beginning of January 2019**.

Candidates are requested to apply with **a brief covering letter** showing how they meet the criteria above, and **a suggested programme for our spring concert in March 2019**, which will be the first concert for the Phoenix Singers under our new MD. Short-listed candidates will be **invited to a rehearsal** in October to meet the choir, and will be given 15-20 minutes to do a short warm-up, followed by rehearsing part of a short piece already in the choir's repertoire, and part of a short piece of the candidate's choice.

**Applications and any enquiries** should be emailed sent to the Chair of the committee Jess Farr-Cox at [jess@thefilthycomma.co.uk](mailto:jess@thefilthycomma.co.uk) by **September 24<sup>th</sup> 2018**.