

## **Phoenix Chamber Choir – Call for Assistant Conductor**

### **POSITION SUMMARY:**

Phoenix Chamber Choir is one of Canada's finest vocal ensembles, residing in Vancouver, BC. Renowned for diverse and eclectic programming from Renaissance to the contemporary, commissions from Canadian and international composers, and Northern American premiers of significant new works, Phoenix seeks an Assistant Conductor (AC). Phoenix Chamber Choir presents an annual season with 4 separate events/concerts, including roughly 8-10 rehearsals leading up to a final performance.

The AC will work collaboratively with the out-of-town Artistic Director to prepare all rehearsals leading up to each performance. The AC must be well versed in choral repertoire and have experience running efficient rehearsals. There may be opportunities for the AC to conduct the ensemble in performances if so desired. The AC must be available to cover the Artistic Director for all rehearsals and performances, if necessary.

### **PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Learn and prepare all choral repertoire
- Conduct weekly preparatory rehearsals as requested and report back to the Artistic Director with comments and questions
- Have basic proficiency in piano to facilitate rehearsals
- Cover the Artistic Director for all Phoenix rehearsals and be ready to cover performances (if necessary)
- Assist with annual chorus auditions and re-auditions, including reviewing applications, scheduling auditions, and assisting in auditions as needed
- Work with Artistic Team and Administrator on rehearsal or concert production issues
- Other duties and responsibilities as directed by the Artistic Director

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

- The AC may be asked to prepare the ensemble and conduct rehearsals for extra gigs or performances when the Artistic Director is unavailable. Compensation for extra gigs or performances would be an additional payable fee to the AC.
- The Artistic Director may identify opportunities for the AC to conduct the ensemble on selected works and programs during the season.
- The rehearsal and concert dates will be available for review by July 31, 2019.

- A typical Phoenix Chamber Choir season consists of the following activities by the choir:
  - 3-4 subscription series concerts, 1.5-2 hours in length each (including intermission)
  - Weekly 2-2.5 hour rehearsal (Tuesday evenings)
  - 2 weekend-full-day retreats for choir rehearsal and team-building (September and January)
  
- Additional activities\* that may take place depending on scheduling and financial considerations include:
  - Recording sessions for audio and/or video.
  - Photography session for promotional material.
  - Fundraising gala/dinner performance.
  - Donor appreciation events.
  - Additional collaborative performances with orchestra, instrumentalists, or other arts organizations (Vancouver Symphony Orchestra and Ballet BC most recently).
  - Tour performances at festivals/conferences.

*\*additional activities will be financially compensated.*

- Additional operational information regarding the choir:
  - All singers are volunteers and audition for their position.
  - The choir is mixed SATB and is flexible in size as long as it remains within the chamber choir category (target of 28 singers or less).
  - The choir rehearses without a rehearsal pianist although several singers have sufficient keyboard skills to facilitate accompaniment when given advance notice.
  - Section leaders are appointed by the AD to facilitate communication regarding attendance at rehearsals, music and markings distribution, and any additional information required.
  - Although the choir has a reputation for singing contemporary classical music, a mixture of all music styles (early music, classical, contemporary jazz) has been a part of the choir's history. A copy of the current Phoenix music library can be provided for reference.

## **QUALIFICATIONS**

- Masters of Music in conducting is preferred, or the equivalent experience working with choral ensembles; Bachelor degree will be considered with sufficient experience in ensemble conducting
  
- Demonstrated experience preparing and conducting a chorus at the high school, collegiate, or community chorus level

- Demonstrated knowledge of vocal technique and choral repertoire
- Excellent communication and organizational skills
- Ability to work collaboratively and take direction from the Phoenix Chamber Choir Artistic Director, and to work collaboratively with musicians, and both professional and volunteer staff

For more information about the ensemble, please visit [www.phoenixchoir.com](http://www.phoenixchoir.com)

### **COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS**

- Annual Salary for the position is \$8000 to include the regular concert season preparation. This requires an approximate time commitment of 150 hours per season. Financial compensation for additional events will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- A two-season contract will be offered with opportunity to renew.
- The Assistant Conductor will receive two complimentary tickets to Phoenix Chamber Choir regular concert performances
- This is a part-time contractual position; no benefits will be offered

### **APPLICATION PROCEDURE**

Qualified candidates are encouraged to submit application materials via email to [admin@phoenixchoir.com](mailto:admin@phoenixchoir.com). **To be considered, the following materials must be received no later than Friday May 31, 2019:**

- A current CV (including significant repertoire and ensembles conducted)
- A cover letter explaining your qualifications for the position
- A link to a video compilation of no more than 15 minutes of conducting footage demonstrating a diverse range of musical and conducting styles. Both rehearsal and performance video is suitable. Please use an online video stream platform such as YouTube, DropBox, etc for the video footage.
- Semi-Finalists will be asked to interview with the Artistic Director and Phoenix Chamber Choir leadership the week of **June 3-7, 2019**. All communications will be considered confidential. Phoenix Chamber Choir is an equal opportunity employer.