

Job title:

Chorus Master

Responsible to:

Artistic: Music Director

Operational: Chorus and Orchestra Director



wno.org.uk

Welsh National Opera exists to bring the power, drama and raw emotion of opera to as wide an audience as possible. As a national Company with an international status, WNO's fundamental aim is to entertain and engage audiences at our operas, concerts and events. Building on our 75 years, with strong roots in our communities, we provide transformative experiences through our world-class performances, education, talent development and engagement work; to broaden and develop new and diverse audiences; to demonstrate that opera is a rewarding, relevant and universal art form.

Job Description

Responsible for

Choristers (permanent and extra chorus, in association with the Chorus Manager and the Chorus & Orchestra Director)

Department

 Music

Salary Circa £40,000 per annum

Tenure Permanent

Deadline for Applications

Friday 19th August 2022, 5pm

Auditions and Interviews:

2 stage process w/c commencing
3rd October 2022



Main purpose of job

To be responsible for and ensure the highest quality of musical preparation and delivery of the Chorus for opera performances, concerts, recordings and WNO Youth and Community activities. In addition, the successful candidate will be responsible for the musical standard and artistic development of the Chorus.

Scope

Artistic Management

- Oversee artistically and direct the Chorus musically in order to achieve consistently the highest level of artistic standards for the Company.
- Supervising all of the work of the Chorus in order to achieve the maximum effectiveness as part of the wider artistic ensemble.

People Management

- Working with the Chorus Manager to achieve a productive environment both through and around the Company's rehearsal and performance processes.
- Providing regular feedback to Choristers including bi-annual appraisal reviews. Identifying development needs of Chorus members.
- Encouraging upward communication of ideas and issues from Chorus members.

Financial

- To provide all relevant information to enable the Chorus Manager and Chorus and Orchestra Director to produce budget projections for all WNO work that involves the Chorus.
- Help to create rehearsal and performance processes that are conducive to responsible financial management of the Chorus.



Key responsibilities



- To rehearse the Chorus in preparation for opera performances, concerts, recordings and to support WNO Programmes and Engagement initiatives and activity.
- To conduct and oversee the Chorus at rehearsals and to play the piano for own chorus rehearsals as required.
- To liaise with the Chorus Manager and the Chorus and Orchestra Director on matters relating to the administration of the Chorus.
- To attend all relevant artistic planning meetings and budget meetings requiring artistic decision-making. To contribute to all scheduling decisions in relation to Chorus rehearsals and performances flowing from such meets and all other such discussions.
- To conduct backstage choral elements of main stage productions and undertake non-choral backstage musical elements as required, including playing as required by the Head of Music and Casting Advisor.
- To be fully involved (including as a choral conductor) in Chorus Concerts as required by the Chorus and Orchestra Director – including programming such events in association with relevant colleagues. To be fully involved in the planning of Chorus Concerts and the involvement of the Chorus in Orchestra-based Concerts, travelling and venue/promoter relationship-forming as relevant.
- To ensure that Choristers are working in a productive and well-disciplined environment at all times. To deal with, or contribute the resolution of, any disciplinary issues at the appropriate time in conjunction with the Chorus Manager and the Chorus and Orchestra Director.
- To participate administratively as a panel member in auditions for permanent choristers, extra choristers alongside the Head of Music and other key artistic staff.
- To participate administratively as a panel member in auditions to allocate roles and covers to Chorus members alongside the Head of Music and other key artistic staff.
- To oversee the allocation of Choristers in all operas and concerts.
- To assist and support the development of the WNO Community Choir and any other choral ensembles associated with the company.
- To work with language coaches in order to enhance the Chorus's rehearsal processes.
- Any conducting aspirations will be encouraged by the Company. This might include working as assistant conductor for opera productions and taking over some performances, as well as opportunities to conduct as part of the wider programme of the Company.

General

- To cooperate with us in complying with relevant health and safety legislation, policies and procedure in the performance of the post. The post carries responsibility for Health & Safety issues at level 6 (see attached).
- To behave in accordance with our values
- To maintain confidentiality and observe data protection and associated guidelines where appropriate.
- To ensure compliance with our policies and procedures at all times
- The duties in this job description are not exhaustive and may be altered at any time to reflect the changing needs of the organisation.

Chorus Master



WNO Values

Inclusive We have a workplace culture where all people are respected and valued

Collaborative We work as a team to achieve common goals

Dynamic We challenge ourselves creatively and encourage new ideas

Generous Our people use their talent, knowledge, and skills with a generosity of spirit

Responsible We act with integrity and accountability



Person Specification

Chorus Master

The Ideal Candidate

- Able to communicate effectively at all levels.
- Highly organised and motivated with the ability to motivate others.
- Very strong knowledge of operatic repertoire.
- Excellent Choral Conductor.
- Accomplished pianistic skills.
- Languages – solid working knowledge and experience of working in Italian, German and French repertoire.
- Some experience of coaching singers and an understanding of vocal technique.
- Administrative and organisational skills.
- Computer literacy – Word, Outlook.

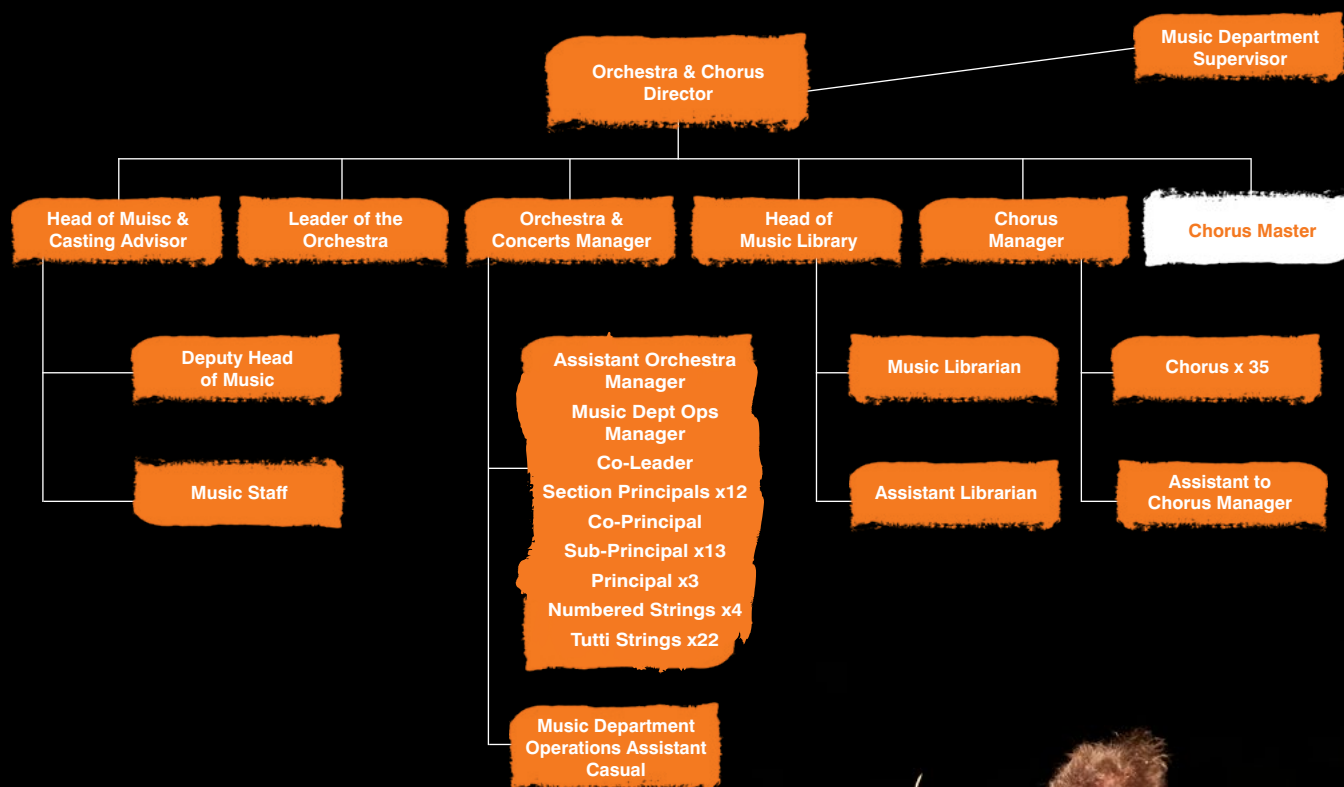
Skills, knowledge and experience

- A working knowledge of current Health & Safety practice relevant to the role.
- A flexible approach to the requirements of the job.
- Ability to travel independently within the UK and abroad.
- Concert Programming experience for Choral work.*
- Working with singers in other operatic languages – eg. Russian and Czech.*
- Experience of working as a member of music staff in an opera company.*

Points marked with an asterisk (*) are desirable rather than essential.



WNO Music Team Structure



Health and Safety

Individual Responsibilities

All Employees
(Level 6)

Every employed person, including Managers

Responsibilities

All employees are responsible for:-

- The observance and implementation of rules and systems which are derived from the Health and Safety Policy and the arrangements for its implementation
- Taking reasonable care for their personal health and safety and that of fellow employees and others who may be affected either directly or indirectly by their acts or omissions at work
- Reporting promptly to the appropriate Manager potential or actual hazards and defects
- Taking part in any health and safety training considered by the Company to be necessary in order to comply with the Company Health and Safety Policy and current legislation
- Knowing the correct action to be taken in the event of an accident, fire or other emergency
- Co-operating with Management and other employees in meeting statutory requirements
- Not interfering with or misusing anything provided to protect their health, safety or welfare which is required by legislation and using any machinery, equipment, substance or safety device in accordance with any training and instruction

