

SANTA YNEZ VALLEY CHORALE SEEKS NEW MUSIC DIRECTOR

The Santa Ynez Valley Chorale is a non-profit volunteer ensemble choir based in Solvang, that has been performing in the community since the 1980s. It consists of 20-40 adult singers of varying musical training and ability. The Chorale is currently searching for a new music director to conduct a combination repertoire of classical as well as modern choral music. The new director will begin in late spring 2024, and will plan the concert program for that December.

PART-TIME CONTRACT SALARY is \$1,500 – \$1,650 per month based on qualifications.

MUSIC DIRECTOR DUTIES

1. Prepare the Chorale for 2 major programs per year, one in December, another in May. In addition, prep for the few small performances requested by the Santa Ynez Valley community. These may include songs for the Winter Holidays at local Elder Care centers or churches, as well as patriotic standards for Solvang's annual Memorial Day, Fourth of July, and Veterans Day programs, for example.
2. Direct a two-hour rehearsal each week during both concert seasons (currently 7:00-9:00 pm Monday evenings - subject to change) starting in September for the mid-December concert, and resuming in mid-January for an early May concert.
3. Schedule and direct additional rehearsals close to performance dates as needed to achieve nuanced, artistic performances.
4. Select a program repertoire for concerts that takes into consideration factors such as budget, ensemble size, abilities, availability of scores, musicians, soloists, and venues.
5. Determine the order of musical pieces for concert programs and other performances. Arrange musical scores for the chorale and/or orchestra, or secure arrangements as necessary.
6. Engage professional musicians as needed for specific programs, select soloists, and conduct all related instrumental and choral rehearsals and performances.
7. Assist in recruitment and retention of singers. Responsible for acceptance of any new members in consultation with section leaders. Identify member developmental needs, and coach improvement through appropriate avenues, such as additional part rehearsals or referral to a vocal coach.
8. Serve on the Chorale Board of Directors and attend monthly meetings (remotely or in person). Maintain open communication and actively contribute to all concerns as needed, play a visible and active role in promoting the Chorale, and advise in fundraising.
9. In consultation with the board, develop creative and long range musical objectives. Identify strategies and action steps to achieve goals.
10. Provide additional services as agreed from time to time with Chorale's Board of Directors or appropriate officers.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Experience teaching and conducting adult choral ensembles
- Experience conducting an orchestra or instrumental ensembles
- Advanced studies in choral conducting: Masters in Choral Conducting or equivalent professional experience (*Doctor of Music Arts preferred*)
- Solid understanding of both choral and vocal pedagogy
- Thorough comprehension of repertoire from traditional western canon, as well as world music and contemporary choral music.
- Ability to teach and inspire singers from diverse backgrounds
- Good communication skills
- Patience and sense of humor
- Experience arranging/composing sheet music for orchestra accompaniment is a Major Plus

ALL VOICES ARE VALUED

We believe that a broad range of voices makes us stronger. Diversity allows us to fulfill our mission to bring the gift of choral music to our community. We strive to create an environment where all members feel respected, included, and valued. We are committed to building a chorale that includes anyone aged 14 and up from all genders, races, ethnicities, viewpoints, and abilities. We recruit and support singers who represent every aspect of our community. We are committed to nurturing our members to be the best choral artists they can be.

MUSIC DIRECTOR SELECTION PROCESS

Email the following to RGLane@mac.com:

- Cover Letter
- CV or Resume – CV is preferred, or Resume should include a list of accomplishments.
- List of pieces conducted in performance and/or rehearsals
- Three references
- If possible, links to video or audio of conducting rehearsals and/or performances

Strong applicants will be invited to interview and demonstrate rehearsal skills with a group of Chorale members. The search committee will make its recommendations to the Board, which will make the final selection.

Additional questions may be directed to Richard Lane at (850) 570-0923