



Guy's, King's and St Thomas' Hospitals' Music Society

ACTING MUSICAL DIRECTOR

The appointment

The Society seeks an Acting Musical Director for the Autumn Term 2009 following the appointment of Alexander Chaplin as Musical Director of Harlow Chorus, after three successful years with us. The Acting MD will prepare the Society for their Christmas Concert, and will conduct the concert on Tuesday December 8th in Southwark Cathedral. The concert attracts a capacity audience.

The Society also intends to appoint a Musical Director during the Autumn Term, to begin in January 2010. The timing of this process reflects the fact that the choir and orchestra do not rehearse during the summer term, owing to university exams, and therefore the autumn provides the next available opportunity for the Society to audition candidates with the choir and orchestra. Applicants are welcome to indicate that they would consider this appointment, but the two processes should be considered separate, and the permanent post will be advertised in September.

About the Society

GKT Music Society has been in existence – in various guises – since the 19th century, originating as a choir for staff and students at St Thomas' Hospital. Former conductors have included Ralph Vaughan Williams, who also composed his part-song *Hearts Music* for the choir, and Jeffrey Tate, who trained at St Thomas' before launching his international conducting career.

Today, this non-auditioned group consists of a choir and orchestra, which perform at the same concert but separately from each other. The choir has approximately 100 singers, including a number who can perform solos. It is supported by an excellent student accompanist. The orchestra has approximately 45 players –predominantly strings and wind, and is supported by an excellent student leader. There is scope for bringing in brass and percussion players for concerts.

Requirements of the post

- Conduct Monday evening rehearsals, in Guy's Hospital Chapel, between Monday 28 September – Monday 7 December inclusive:
6.00-7.30 Choir
8.00-9.30 Orchestra

In case of absence, the post-holder would be expected to provide a suitable deputy.

- Conduct one Sunday afternoon rehearsal. The provisional date is Sunday 29 November, 2-5pm; but this is negotiable.
- Conduct the Christmas Concert on Tuesday December 8th at 7.30pm in Southwark Cathedral, with a rehearsal on the day between 1.30-5pm.

- Liaise with committee on the content of the concert programme, and with choir accompanist and orchestral leader on rehearsals. A draft programme has been devised, but this is negotiable providing music can be obtained in time for the first rehearsal;
- Audition and train soloists for the concert for an additional hour per week, which is paid. Monday evenings between 5-6pm have been set aside for this but other times can normally be arranged.
- Advise the committee on booking professional musicians for the concert – eg, organist, brass and percussion players.

Person specification

Essential:

- Recent experience/training in choral and orchestral conducting.
- Experience of coaching singers for solo performance.
- Experience of working with a committee.
- Understanding of the demands of preparing a non-auditioned group for performance.
- Excellent communication skills, enabling you to speak at the concert with ease and a sense of humour.

Desirable

- Good keyboard skills

Selection process

Up to six candidates will be invited for interview on the weekend of June 13th-14th. We plan to short-list up to three candidates. We would then ask if two representatives of the Society could observe the candidates conduct, in either a rehearsal (subject to the permission of the group in question) or a concert, during June. If that is not possible, audio-visual evidence of conducting would be acceptable. We hope to make the appointment by the beginning of July, enabling us to plan the term in detail.

Your application

In addition to your CV, letter of application and contact details of two referees, we would be grateful if you could indicate your availability for interview, and any opportunities you may be able to provide for us to see you at work as a conductor during June. Please also give your expectations of remuneration.

Please send your application to Harry Gasper, 97 Liverpool Grove, London, SE17 2HP on or before Friday 5th June.