



President - Michael Hancock

**DIRECTOR OF MUSIC - INVITATION TO APPLY**  
The Wordsworth Singers wish to appoint a  
**Director of Music**  
from June 2024

**The Choir**

A number of factors make The Wordsworth Singers distinctive:

- We are an a cappella chamber choir. A variety of music is sung, mainly unaccompanied, occasionally accompanied, and from every era.
- Number of singers: we have a pool of around 40 singers; an average of 30 voices sings at each concert. Solo parts are normally taken by choir members.
- Auditions: applicants to join sing with the choir on a trial basis and are observed by the Director of Music and choir members. They may be asked to audition at the Director of Music's discretion.
- Rehearsal Structure: we typically have three weekday evening rehearsals and a full Saturday rehearsal, plus a rehearsal on the day of each concert, amounting to about 15 hours concentrated rehearsal for a performance.
- Number of concerts: we usually schedule four projects per year, each with a new programme and working towards a single concert, sometimes repeated. Concerts are each held in a different venue, in different parts of Cumbria. It is possible also to schedule extra engagements within the year if an attractive proposal arises.
- The chairman liaises with the Director of Music. Other members book venues for concerts and soloists and instrumentalists if required, apply for funding, grants and sponsorship where appropriate. A project manager for each project ensures that all concert arrangements are made including the design of publicity and programme.
- Occasionally, with the agreement of the committee, concerts requiring larger forces may be scheduled.
- We field out smaller groups of singers for private recitals, weddings or funerals if invited. These are usually directed by members of the choir rather than the Director of Music.

**The Director of Music**

- will choose repertoire, holding ultimate responsibility for the repertoire of scheduled performances, with the approval of the committee on financial issues;
- will rehearse and conduct the choir for an agreed number of concerts in each season;

- will further the development of the choir's vocal skills;
- will work closely with the chairman and project manager;
- will be consulted about new or existing members.

### Further Information

The post of Director of Music carries an honorarium, with fees, and reasonable travel expenses within the UK for rehearsals and concerts, negotiated within the limits of the choir's finances. The current fee structure is:

£1100 retainer for each season, paid in two instalments per annum, paid from appointment;

a fee of £650 per concert including rehearsals;

a further £200 fee for a repeat concert;

travel expenses: off-peak train fare where possible, by negotiation if not.

The project-based rehearsal schedule enables very competent singers to be members of the choir, and we expect this pattern to continue. The exact rehearsal pattern and the dates of performances are negotiable with the successful candidate, and we shall make every effort to fit in with his or her other commitments.

Carlisle is on the M6 motorway and has a fast rail service to Scotland and NW England. It is therefore practicable for the Director of Music to be based out of Cumbria.

Further information about the choir is available on our web site [www.wordsworthsingers.org.uk](http://www.wordsworthsingers.org.uk). Under the heading Reviews you will find some examples of recent programmes. Please contact the secretary if you would like to see recent fliers and concert programmes.

**If you require any other information, or would like an informal discussion, please contact either:**

Simon Mortimer, Chairman  
 Email address: [thorneymoor@gmail.com](mailto:thorneymoor@gmail.com)  
 Telephone: 07711 117080

Janet Hornby, Secretary  
 Email address: [sec@wordsworthsingers.org.uk](mailto:sec@wordsworthsingers.org.uk)  
 Telephone: 01768 486746

**If you would like to apply for the position, please send a covering letter with the names of two referees and curriculum vitae by 20 March 2024 to [sec@wordsworthsingers.org.uk](mailto:sec@wordsworthsingers.org.uk) or:**

Janet Hornby  
 Secretary to The Wordsworth Singers  
 2 Barton House  
 Pooley Bridge  
 Penrith  
 CA10 2NG

The letter might cover some of the following points:

- aims for the choir over the next five years
- how you would develop the choir.

### Timetable for the appointment:

Closing date for applications 20 March 2024

Interviews and auditions 27 April 2024

Planning for the next project begins 1 May 2024 with concert planned for 29th June 2024