

Daventry Choral Society

MUSICAL DIRECTOR

Daventry Choral Society is looking for a new Musical Director to motivate, direct and train the choir from September 2021. This follows the departure of Dr. Nicholas Scott Burt who held the post for ten years.

- **Closing date for applications is 7th June 2021**
- **Shortlisted candidates will be notified by 28th June 2021**
- **Interviews will be held in July and August, and may be via a digital platform***
- **Auditions will be held in early September 2021***
- ****Subject to prevailing Covid restrictions.***

Auditions in person will involve rehearsing the choir in two works, one familiar to most of the choir, and one that is new.

The appointment of the MD will be subject to satisfactory references.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE POST

- Daventry Choral Society was established 30 years ago, and is a friendly group of amateur singers with a reputation for the performance of high quality concerts.
- Rehearsals take place on Tuesday evenings from 7.30pm till 9.30pm at Daventry Methodist Church during academic terms.
- The MD prepares the choir and directs the choir, orchestra and soloists on the afternoon and evening of the concerts.
- The Society aims to perform at least three concerts per year.
- The contract is based on Making Music's *Model Contract with a Music Director*.
- Remuneration is negotiable, commensurate with ISM rates, qualifications and experience.
- The current contract is a rolling annual contract, subject to annual performance review.
- There will be an initial probationary period of not more than six months, to include at least one concert performance. The Trustees may reduce, or extend, that period with the agreement of the MD.
- The choir will provide a regular accompanist to support the MD at rehearsals and concerts.
- When possible the choir aims to undertake a continental tour every two years. The last tour, in April 2019 was to Tuscany in Italy.

JOB DESCRIPTION

Overall objective

To direct and develop choral music as required by the elected Committee of the Society.

Principal duties

- To train the choir to perform works chosen with the agreement of the Committee.
- To conduct voice tests of prospective members with the Chorus Manager.
- To liaise regularly with both the DCS Chairman and the Chairman of the Concert Programme sub-committee.
- To advise and assist the Committee in selecting works and in planning concerts.
- To conduct the choir and other performers at concerts.
- To provide musical training for the choir as appropriate (e.g. sight reading, vocal technique).
- To be responsible for providing a deputy in the event of not being able to take a rehearsal.
- To ensure the highest possible musical standards are achieved both at rehearsals and concerts consistent with the Society's musical and financial resources.
- To assist in the identification and, if necessary, audition of soloists and other performers needed for concerts and make recommendations to the Committee for their engagement.
- To be an ex-officio member of the Management Committee, and attend meetings if requested to do so.
- To be a member of the Concert Programme sub-committee and work collaboratively to draw up a concert programme.

We are looking for an individual with the following attributes.

ESSENTIAL

- Enthusiasm, drive and energy.
- The ability to motivate a mixed ability group of singers.
- To work as a member of a diverse team and respect different opinions.
- Proven ability and experience of conducting a mixed voice choir.
- Experience of voice training adult amateur singers of mixed ability,

some of whom may have limited musical experience.

- Experience of orchestral conducting.
- Ability to demonstrate and teach vocal techniques.
- Commitment to the Society's Constitution and ethos.

DESIRABLE

- Vision and commitment to guide, inspire and develop the Society's future direction.
- Ability to use, where appropriate, digital platforms e.g. Zoom or Microsoft Teams.
- Good interpersonal skills, including the ability to lead and direct the choir and work with the elected Committee.
- Ability to understand and work within the financial constraints of a volunteer choir, funded largely by member subscriptions.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applicants should email a letter outlining their suitability for the post together with their CV and the names of two referees to Kevin Herbert, Chairman, at secretary@daventrychoral.org.uk.