



Position Description Music Director, New York Choral Society

The New York Choral Society (NYCS) is seeking a Music Director to lead choral activities beginning with the 2012-2013 season.

Over the course of its 52 seasons, the NYCS, with its 185 avocational singers, has become recognized for its outstanding performances at Carnegie Hall and other prominent music venues in New York City and around the world.

The NYCS's mission is to enrich the cultural life of the New York community by:

- Sharing with our audiences a rich variety of choral music from classic to contemporary pieces, including newly commissioned works, performed with professional orchestra and soloists.
- Fostering interest and participation in choral music through education and community outreach, especially for children in the New York metropolitan area via the Mini Maestros program.
- Acting as choral music ambassadors for the purpose of cultural exchange at home and abroad, including bi-annual international tours.
- Providing our singers with challenging, diverse, and joyful singing experiences that enable them to contribute to the cultural life of the New York community, including sponsoring 6-8 Summer Sings in July and August.

The NYCS currently self-produces two concerts with orchestra at Carnegie Hall each year, in addition to high-profile paid engagements (typically 2-4), in the September through mid-May season. Historically, repertoire has included classical, opera and popular music. The chorus is a volunteer-run 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization on solid financial footing and has an annual operating budget of approximately \$500,000. The organization consists of a Board of Trustees (governance and fundraising) and Board of Managers (concert planning and day-to-day operations). The Music Director, Assistant Conductor, accompanist, and Executive Director are paid positions.

The Music Director has the following responsibilities:

Artistic Leadership

- Provide artistic vision, with experience in a wide variety of repertoire, including popular music and opera.
- Lead in programming NYCS self-produced concerts, including recommending venues and soloists and/or guest artists where appropriate. Programming must take into consideration the accessibility (e.g. marketability) of the works selected, the capabilities of the chorus's skill level, and the annual budget.
- Provide guidance and supervise activities of the Assistant Conductor.
- Conduct all regular rehearsals, as mutually agreed.
- Audition members of the NYCS and soloists.
- Prepare the chorus for paid engagements as mutually agreed.

- Prepare the chorus for, and participate in, bi-annual international tours, as mutually agreed.
- Commitment to engage and motivate the chorus to meet high musical expectations and find ways of improving singing technique for the group as a whole.

General Management

- Collaborate with Board of Managers and Executive Director in concert programming, budget preparation, production of concerts within agreed budgets, and identification of partnership opportunities with other performing arts organizations.
- Collaborate with Board of Trustees on strategic planning and development.
- Attend at least 50% of Board and key business meetings throughout the year.

Public Relations and Development

- Act as the public face and voice for the NYCS in marketing, public relations, and fundraising efforts.
- Raise the profile of the NYCS through increased exposure in the media.
- Identify and participate in outreach and other activities that expand the NYCS audience.
- Ability to cultivate and leverage connections in the New York musical community for the benefit of the chorus.

Qualifications

Candidates should have the following qualifications:

- Substantial experience (at least 10 years) leading large symphonic choruses and conducting orchestras in a wide variety of repertoire.
- Advanced degree preferred.
- Broad knowledge of a wide variety of genres of choral repertoire, including popular music and opera.
- Demonstrated understanding of the challenges facing avocational arts organizations in the 21st century.
- Commitment to the financial future of the organization by participating in fundraising efforts which include solicitations for grants and corporate sponsorships and an annual fundraising gala.

Although the Music Director is a part-time position, we expect that NYCS will be of primary concern and commitment for the successful candidate.

Evaluation and Application

Applicants will be evaluated by the NYCS Search Committee. Any expressions of interest from qualified candidates are welcome and will be kept in confidence. **All applications must be received by August 15, 2011.** Please send résumé, letter of application, repertoire list, and discography via email to nychoralmd@gmail.com. Hard copy applications or other submissions, such as performance DVDs, should be mailed to: The New York Choral Society, Attn: Search Committee, 119 W. 57th Street, Suite 1215, New York, NY 10019.

Learn more about NYCS by visiting www.nychoral.org, which includes a detailed history and repertoire list.