

London Philharmonic[★] Choir

Chorus Director Recruitment Pack

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About the London Philharmonic Choir

Founded in 1947 as the chorus for the London Philharmonic Orchestra, the London Philharmonic Choir is widely regarded as one of Britain's finest choirs. For the last seven decades the Choir has performed under leading conductors, consistently meeting with critical acclaim and recording regularly for television and radio.

Enjoying a close relationship with the London Philharmonic Orchestra, the Choir performs regularly at the Southbank Centre's Royal Festival Hall. Recent highlights have included Tippett's *A Midsummer Marriage* and *A Child of Our Time*, Schoenberg's *Gurrelieder*, Berlioz's *The Damnation of Faust*, Janáček's *Glagolitic Mass* and Mahler's Symphony No. 2 all under LPO Principal Conductor Edward Gardner; Wagner's *Götterdämmerung* under LPO Conductor Emeritus Vladimir Jurowski; the UK premieres of James MacMillan's *Christmas Oratorio* with the Choir's President, Sir Mark Elder, and Tan Dun's *Buddha Passion* conducted by Tan Dun himself; as well as the world premiere of Elena Langer's *The Dong with a Luminous Nose*.

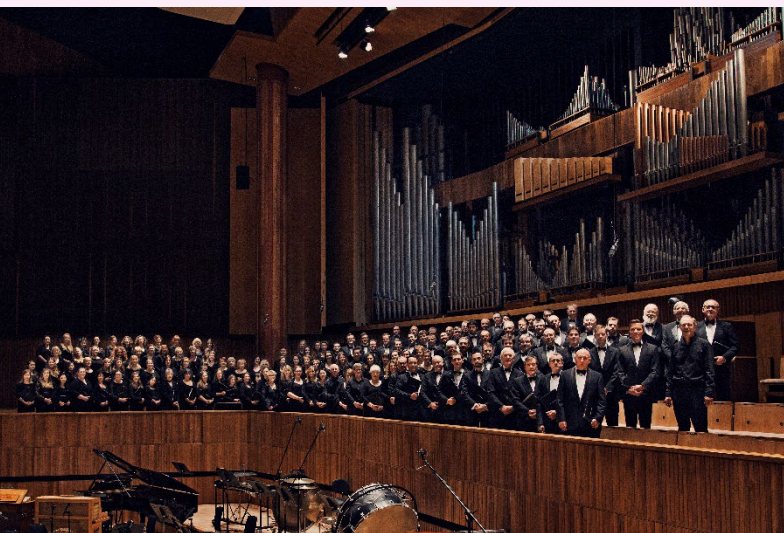
The Choir appears annually at the BBC Proms at the Royal Albert Hall, and performances have included the UK premieres of Mark-Anthony Turnage's *A Relic of Memory* and John Luther Adams's *In the Name of the Earth*. In recent years, the Choir has given performances of works by Beethoven, Elgar, Howells, Liszt, Orff, Vaughan Williams, Verdi and Walton.

The Choir prides itself on achieving first-class performances from its members, who are volunteers from all walks of life. The Choir has a strong reputation for LGBTQI+ inclusivity, and this summer both community members and allies will be taking part in the Pride in London parade.

The Choir is managed by a committee of members who are elected by the active Choir membership and appointed as trustees and directors at each Annual General Meeting to hold office for the period of one year. The committee resigns office at each AGM and all committee members are eligible for re-election as trustees in accordance with the company's constitution. All committee members give their time, skills and experience voluntarily.

About the role

Job title	Chorus Director
Reports to	Chair of the Board of Directors
Works closely with	Associate Chorus Director, Board of Directors and Trustees, Voice Representatives, Librarian, Accompanist, Principal Conductor of the LPO, LPO Management team
Remuneration	Compensation for rehearsals and concert days is competitive within the industry and will be discussed separately. Travel and accommodation expenses for London rehearsals and concerts are not covered by the Choir.
Location	London (Regular venues include Hinde Street Methodist Church, The Warehouse, Henry Wood Hall, Royal Festival Hall.) Other locations for Choir tours as needed and arranged on a project by project basis.
Hours	Freelance sessions based on LPO concert season. Regular rehearsals are Monday and Wednesday evenings as required on a project by project basis.
Term	The Chorus Director will work on a freelance, self-employed basis for 4 years starting spring 2025. This role will have a nine-month probationary period.



Principal responsibilities and main tasks

Following 30 years as Chorus Director of the London Philharmonic Choir, Neville Creed is retiring at the end of the 2024/25 season. This is a unique opportunity for an experienced, enthusiastic and inspiring choral conductor to take over the reins and play an active role in continuing the London Philharmonic Choir's strategy to maintain and further develop its place as a world-class symphony choir. The post holder will have experience in directing choruses and will be able to demonstrate the ability to plan engaging rehearsals leading to the Choir delivering professional quality performances, as well as support the growth of new membership. They will have extensive knowledge of repertoire and vocal training, and will have strong interpersonal and communication skills. They will be inspiring, engaging and creative in developing the profile of the Choir.

The Chorus Director will work alongside the new Associate Chorus Director in preparing the Choir for performances ensuring the artistic excellence of the Choir. The Chorus Director will liaise directly with the artistic team at the London Philharmonic Orchestra to shape the choral contribution to the Orchestra's artistic strategy.

Additionally, the Chorus Director will work with the Board of Directors to:

- liaise with concert conductors to understand their artistic aspirations for each piece of repertoire
- provide the necessary guidance and direction during rehearsals to help singers reach the concert conductor's artistic aspirations
- promote the Choir throughout the wider classical music network and bring in additional concerts to complement the existing LPO programming
- in conjunction with the Board, liaise with promoters and agents regarding programming logistics of potential bookings
- nurture existing relationships with the London Youth Choirs, university and college choirs and other music organisations to ensure an ongoing pipeline of singers into the Choir including singers from diverse backgrounds
- audition potential new singers and reaudition of existing members
- lead Choir members in warm-ups before rehearsals and performances
- arrange suitable alternative musicians to deputise when unavoidably absent
- attend events on behalf of the Choir

Person specification

Essential

- High professional proficiency and achievements in classical music
- Extensive experience of choir training and choral conducting at a professional level
- Experience of delivering vocal coaching with choirs
- Experience of working with professional orchestras and orchestral conductors
- Strong knowledge of music theory, composition, and performance techniques
- Extensive knowledge of choral repertoire and experience in programming concerts
- Passion for the development of classical music including new compositions
- Excellent leadership and communication skills
- Demonstrable experience of working collaboratively with a board of directors and other senior stakeholders
- Excellent organisational skills to support and complement the Board of Directors
- Flexibility to work evenings and weekends for rehearsals and performances

Desirable

- Proficient in playing one or more musical instruments
- Experience of safeguarding and protection of young people and young adults
- Demonstrable experience of using social media in a professional context

Working with the London Philharmonic Choir

The London Philharmonic Choir rehearsals are held at Hinde Street Methodist Church in W1U or other central London venues from 6.30–8.45pm on Monday and Wednesday evenings when preparing for concerts. Piano and tutti rehearsals are arranged by the London Philharmonic Orchestra at venues across Greater London during the concert week and may be scheduled on other evenings to suit the conductor, soloist(s) and Orchestra's availability. The Choir's schedule is drawn up 6–12 months in advance. The successful candidate should be available and committed to attend scheduled rehearsals including the conductor's piano, orchestral tuttis and the concert performance for each project where they are engaged.

The Choir prides itself on being a supportive organisation, focusing on artistic excellence as well as members' wellbeing. Our members come from a variety of backgrounds across several generations and represent a wide-ranging industry network through their day jobs. The Choir has a reputation for LGBTQ+ inclusivity and we are working with the London Philharmonic Orchestra as well as youth choirs to support diversity across choral education and nurture a pipeline of singers and audience members in classical music that better looks like our London home.

The role of Chorus Director is a freelance position appointed on an initial four-year term. Sessions are paid exclusive of VAT following receipt of a monthly invoice after the delivery of services. For each performance where the Chorus Director is engaged, they shall be entitled to a pair of complimentary tickets provided by the promoter, e.g. LPO, BBC or venue.

Subject to availability, the LPO will offer the successful candidate up to four seats each summer for a Final Dress Rehearsal at Glyndebourne Festival Opera.

Safeguarding

The London Philharmonic Choir is committed to safeguarding and protecting the children, young people and other vulnerable groups with whom we work. We ensure that our organisation has policies and procedures in place so that we can do everything possible to safeguard our Choir members and associates. Applicants should already be registered on the DBS Update Service, or be willing to undergo a new check with London Philharmonic Choir. The successful candidate will also be required to complete necessary online safeguarding training.

Diversity and Inclusion

We actively welcome applications from all sections of the community, recognising that we are stronger as a diverse team bringing a range of lived experiences to our goals of sharing the wonder of choral music.

How to apply

The closing date for applications is 10am on Monday 1 July 2024.

Interviews will take place in October and November 2024.

Please complete our application form where you will be asked to upload your CV and covering letter. If you are unable to apply online, please contact the Choir's Chairman, Tessa Bartley, at chair@lpc.org.uk or +44 (0) 7887 803 519 for further information.

CVs should include:

- Details of relevant achievements and experience as well as educational and professional qualifications
- Details of your notice period and names of two referees, together with a brief statement of the capacity in which they have known you, along with an indication of when in the application process they may be contacted (please note that we will not contact your referees without your express permission.)
- Contact details including day and evening telephone/mobile numbers

Your covering letter should summarise your interest in this post, providing evidence of your ability to match the criteria outlined in the Person Specification on page 5.

Please let us know if you require an alternative way of applying.

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