



## THE FREDERICK CHORALE DIRECTOR POSITION DESCRIPTION

The Frederick Chorale, an auditioned, 50-voice adult chorus, seeks an experienced choral conductor to replace our founding director, who is retiring after 35 years. During that time the group has performed a broad variety of music in formal concerts, ensemble performances, and our Madrigal Revels throughout the Mid Atlantic region and in four countries abroad. We have performed alone, with other choruses, and with a range of accompaniment ensembles. Some members have sung with the Chorale for over 20 years, and some have joined this season. Many members have studied voice, and some have performed as soloists with the Chorale and with other groups. Some have advanced music degrees and professional training, and some teach music.

The successful candidate will have a reputation for artistic excellence in directing choruses, orchestras, and soloists, will be engaged and excited by the creative process, and will have the ability to build on the Chorale's established high standing. The director will report to a self-governing elected board and will have overall responsibility for the musical performance of the Chorale, creating an artistically satisfying and challenging experience for the Chorale members and an enriching experience for its audiences.

### **Specific responsibilities**

- To provide an artistic vision for the Chorale that will result in repertoire that will delight audiences and expand the talents of the membership
- To conduct all Chorale rehearsals, preparing the Chorale and instrumentalists for each performance vocally, musically, and stylistically
- To work with the Music Committee to select all musical repertoire and to oversee the ordering of music for the Chorale and for instrumentalists
- To work with the Concert Planning Committee to select and arrange venues, design concerts and performances, and plan logistics
- To work with the Treasurer to develop concert budgets and to solicit grants
- To work with the Publicity Chair to produce promotional materials and campaigns, including providing promotional ideas, reviewing articles and press releases, and participating in newspaper and TV interviews
- To assist Chorale members to obtain study aids, as needed
- To work with Section Leaders to solve individual vocal/musical problems and to strive to bring all members up to performance level
- To contract with professional instrumentalists for specific concerts
- To oversee the process by which soloists are chosen from within the Chorale membership

- To work with Chorale members to enhance performances with sets, costumes, media, drama, and narration
- To work with the Concert Planning Committee and Board to identify and recruit clinicians
- To promote the Chorale's fundraising efforts
- With the Chorale President and members, to represent the Chorale to the greater Frederick community by attending local arts events and meeting with special donors and with community, government, religious, and non-profit leaders

### **Qualifications**

- Have an established reputation for excellent and inspired artistic achievement in leading choral and orchestral musicians with soloists
- Have extensive knowledge of the standard choral and choral/orchestral repertoire, and strong knowledge of music of our time
- Have expertise in vocal technique, languages, and choral diction
- Be a creative and exciting artistic leader
- Be an effective motivator and teacher
- Have a sense of humor and personable manner
- Have at least a bachelor's degree in music; a master's degree in choral conducting is highly desirable
- Have demonstrated the ability to
  - attract and retain highly qualified choral singers and promote their continued musical development
  - select repertoire of high artistic merit that inspires performers and audiences
  - effectively prepare choruses for varied and challenging repertoire
  - proficiently and artistically conduct choral/instrumental and a cappella repertoire
  - enhance the organization's reputation
  - vigorously and effectively represent the organization to the broader community
  - interpret and annotate master scores for chorus, accompanists, instrumentalists, and soloists
  - work effectively with a board of directors

### **Job Location**

- Frederick, Maryland

### **Availability**

- This position will be open in the spring of 2012, at the end of the 2011-2012 season

**To Apply:**

Interested candidates with the qualifications outlined may apply by submitting the following by email to: [directorsearch@frederickchorale.org](mailto:directorsearch@frederickchorale.org).

- A letter describing your artistic vision for this high-caliber, auditioned chorus. (See *About the Frederick Chorale* below for information about the Chorale and its history.)
- A curriculum vitae
- A completed application cover sheet found at <http://www.frederickchorale.org/directorsearch>

**For further information, please contact:**

Linda Myers at 301-371-6594

## ABOUT THE FREDERICK CHORALE ([www.frederickchorale.org](http://www.frederickchorale.org))

The Frederick Chorale was founded in 1977 with the goals of studying and performing fine choral music from all periods, bringing high-quality choral performances to the Frederick community and beyond, and providing an outlet for members' talents, skills, and creativity.

The Chorale has performed most of the major choral/orchestra works feasible for a group of around 50 members, often with a professional orchestra. It has performed a substantial, diverse selection of smaller works, sacred and secular, from all periods. Some special-purpose performances have included costumes, characters, scripts, narration, dancing, multi-media enhancement, audience interaction, props, and humor. Regardless of the trappings that enhance the experience for the audiences, the music is always central.

Every winter the Chorale has done an Elizabethan Revels; these have included a humorous script, sing-along music, soloists and small ensembles, and instrumentalists. The central repertoire for these events is significant serious choral motets and miniature masterpieces from all periods balanced by some musical and visual silliness. Often the Chorale will perform the Revels repertoire for a fee as a concert for a private or public organization.

In addition to the Revels in December, a typical season will include two concerts in the spring, one a major sacred work, and one focusing on a variety of more recent music united by a theme.

Among the sacred works the Chorale has performed are Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, Handel's *Israel in Egypt*, and *The Messiah*, Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms*, Faure's *Requiem*, Bach's *Mass in B Minor* and *Magnificat in D*, Mozart's *Requiem*, Brahms' *German Requiem*, Chilcott's *Jubilate*, Brubeck's *To Hope*, Vivaldi's *Dixit Dominus*, and Durufle's *Requiem*. The Chorale has sung a wide variety of smaller sacred works from motets to spirituals.

Secular concerts, some with vintage costumes, humorous vignettes, dancers, and narration, have included American and British music sung at the British Embassy, a patriotic commemoration of 9/11, The Roots of Jazz, Music of the 1940s, opera and operetta choruses and solos, Bernstein and the Beatles, Disney, and Broadway. Director Nancy Roblin and the Chorale conceived of and hosted a 10-event Baroque Festival held in the spring of 2011, involving a broad variety of musicians and performers from the Washington, D.C., Maryland, and Pennsylvania area.

The Chorale is currently working on a multi-media Earth Concert to be performed on Earth Day, April 22, 2012.

Ensembles of the Chorale have performed in venues across the Mid-Atlantic states, in the Middle East, the United Kingdom, and Canada. Many chorale members have sung with the Great Waters Music Festival Chorus in New Hampshire.

In an ongoing effort to stretch our abilities, the Chorale has brought in clinicians who have offered workshops and master classes, including Thomas Jones, vocal coach at Harvard University; Dr. Gwyneth Walker, composer; Elaine Brown, founder of Singing City; Ward Swingle, arranger and founder of the Swingle Singers; Jeremy Jackman of the Kings Singers;

Allen Lannom, conductor of the Masterworks Chorus; Dr. Gerald Mack, director of the Worcester Chorus and founder of the Great Waters Music Festival; and Dr. Nathan Carter, director of the Morgan State University Choir. The Chorale has joined forces to perform with groups such as the United States Air Force Singing Sergeants, the Maryland Symphony Orchestra, The Frederick Children's Chorus, and the Howard Burns Jazz Quartet.

The Chorale is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. It is self-governed by a board that is elected from the membership. The Board includes a President, Vice-President/Concert Planning Chairperson, Treasurer, Secretary, Music Committee Chairperson, Publicity Chairperson, Personnel Chairperson, and Social Committee Chairperson. The Chorale holds business meetings three times per year. The season begins the last Sunday in August and finishes after the last concert, usually in May. The Chorale is managed musically by the Director and organizationally by the Board, which has monthly meetings before Sunday rehearsals. Rehearsals are held on Sunday evenings from 7 to 9:30 P.M. in a church near downtown Frederick. The Revels are usually on the first Saturday of December. The sacred concerts in the spring are usually on a Saturday night or Sunday afternoon sometime from February to April, and the pops concerts are usually on a Saturday night in May.