



Information for applicants for the position of Music Director of Cleveland Philharmonic Choir

Thank you for your interest in this position.
The vacancy has arisen due to the retirement of the current Music Director.



Job Description for the position of Music Director

The job of the Music Director of Cleveland Philharmonic Choir (CPC) involves:

1. Leading and developing the choir and preparing it for performances.
2. Conducting concerts (currently four per year), working with professional soloists and instrumentalists.
3. Ensuring the highest possible standard consistent with available resources.
4. Working with the committee to decide on artistic direction, repertoire and all musical aspects of concerts and rehearsals.
5. Auditioning prospective members.



The qualities needed for this position

You will need to be available to attend choir rehearsals on Tuesday evenings, and for concerts and choral training days (*see later*).

Satisfactory references and a DBS check will be needed before appointment.

There are three main qualities:

- 1. A skilled, knowledgeable and experienced musician:**
 - a) An excellent musical ear
 - b) Wide knowledge of choral music and music generally
 - c) Knowledge of vocal technique

- 2. A competent conductor:** skilful conducting of choir and orchestra

- 3. A good leader for Cleveland Philharmonic Choir:**
 - a) An effective leader in rehearsals
 - b) Having an ambition for the choir, challenging it with a vision for the future
 - c) Able to work co-operatively with the committee
 - d) Having a good rapport with singers of all ages

Introducing the choir

Cleveland Philharmonic Choir (www.clevelandphilharmonicchoir.com, Registered Charity Number 1039092) is a mixed-voice auditioned choral society aspiring to high standards in both performance and organisation. It has approximately 100 members aged 15 upwards, with a significant number aged under 40. Singers live within a radius of roughly 30 miles of Middlesbrough.



The choir was formed in 1968 and has been led by two Music Directors, Edwin Raymond (1968–99) and John Forsyth MBE (1999–present).

Rehearsals take place on Tuesday evenings, currently 7–9pm in school term time with a half-term break, at Egglecliffe School, Urlay Nook Road, Egglecliffe TS16 0LA, with the assistance of a professional accompanist. Occasional Choral Training sessions (full or half days) take place on Saturdays, as and when agreed between MD and committee.



Repertoire is largely classical, ranging from Renaissance music to works recently composed. Some pieces are well known, some may be rarely performed.

Currently there are four concerts per year, usually in March/April, June, November and December. Normally, two would use orchestras. The Mowbray Orchestra, which draws excellent players from all over the North of England, is our trusted partner. The Christmas concert uses a brass band and keyboard. Performance opportunities are given to excellent young singers and instrumentalists from this area, and CPC occasionally invites other choirs to partner them in performances.

The choir performs in a variety of venues, large and small, sacred and secular, throughout Teesside. Since 2014 the choir has given four highly acclaimed concerts at Sage Gateshead (now The Glasshouse). For concert examples, see below.



CPC is occasionally called upon to provide choirs for other organisations and has provided small groups to sing at weddings and funerals when invited.



Alongside its serious commitment to the music, the choir cares for its members in a welcoming, helpful and supportive atmosphere. The choir likes to work hard, to feel that each rehearsal has moved the quality of the performance and appreciation of the music forward, but also to enjoy the ride. Occasional social events are much enjoyed.

Concert examples

Soloists originating from the Teesside area are underlined.

All concerts were conducted by John Forsyth MBE unless otherwise indicated.

Year	Work	Venue	Soloists
2002	Brahms: <i>A German Requiem</i> , <i>Song of Destiny</i>	Middlesbrough Town Hall	Sir Thomas Allen, <u>Amanda Floyd</u>
2008	Elgar: <i>The Dream of Gerontius</i>	Middlesbrough Town Hall	Jeffrey Lloyd-Roberts, <u>Anna Stéphaney</u> , Roderick Earle
2010	Britten: <i>Sea Interludes</i> , Elgar: <i>Sea Pictures</i> , Vaughan Williams: <i>A Sea Symphony</i>	Borough Hall, Hartlepool	<u>Anna Stéphaney</u> , Madeleine Pierard, Dawid Kimberg
2011	Bach: <i>St Matthew Passion</i>	Stockton Parish Church	Nathan Vale, <u>Rowan Pierce</u> , <u>Anna Huntley</u> , Daniel Joy, Christopher Dixon, Andrew McTaggart
2012	'The Glory of Gabrieli' (with period instruments)	Stockton Parish Church	Faye Newton, Julian Forbes. Conducted by <u>Thomas Neal</u>
2014	Walton: <i>Belshazzar's Feast</i> , Orff: <i>Carmina Burana</i>	Sage Gateshead	Sir Thomas Allen, Ruth Jenkins- Robertsson, Mark Wilde, Philip Smith
2015	Goodall: <i>Eternal Light</i> , Mozart: <i>Requiem</i>	Stockton Parish Church	Hazel Mc Bain, <u>Charlotte Heslop</u> , <u>James Slimings</u> , Andrew McTaggart
2016	Mendelssohn: <i>Elijah</i>	Middlesbrough Town Hall	Alan Opie OBE Sinéad O'Kelly, <u>Charlotte Heslop</u> , Nathan Vale, Alexander Abrahams
2016	Verdi: <i>Requiem</i>	Sage Gateshead	Linda Richardson, <u>Amanda Floyd</u> , David Butt Philip, Philip Smith
2017	Stravinsky: <i>Symphony of Psalms</i> , Shostakovich: <i>Piano Concerto No. 2</i> , Rutter: <i>Magnificat</i>	Princess Alexandra Auditorium, Yarm	Penelope Randall-Davis, <u>Alison Gill</u> (piano)
2017	An evening of Italian Music: classics, opera and popular song	St Mary's Cathedral, Coulby Newham	<u>Christopher Griksaitis</u> , <u>Rhianne Kent</u> , <u>Inés Antunes</u>
2018	Britten: <i>War Requiem</i>	Sage Gateshead	Roderick Williams, Mark Padmore, Rachel Nicholls
2021	Mozart: <i>Mass in C Minor</i>	Stockton Baptist Church	Emma Morwood, Helen Sherman, Dominic Bevan, Robin Crinson. Conducted by <u>Thomas Neal</u>
2023	Elgar: <i>The Dream of Gerontius</i>	Sage Gateshead	Jeffrey Lloyd-Roberts, <u>Anna Huntley</u> , Morgan Pearse

Employment details

The Music Director of Cleveland Philharmonic Choir is engaged on a self-employed basis and is therefore expected to account for their own income tax and Class 4 National Insurance contributions.

Currently, remuneration is paid as an honorarium/fee termly in arrears; it is reviewed annually. The remuneration package/timing of payments etc is open to negotiation.

How to apply

Candidates should submit a letter of application and a CV, together with names and contact details for two referees, one professional and one personal. References will be taken up at the shortlisting stage.

Applications should be sent by email to the Choir Secretary
secretary@clevelandphilharmonicchoir.com
and must arrive by 1 September 2024.

All applicants will be contacted within two weeks of the above deadline. Shortlisted candidates will be invited to lead part of a choir rehearsal and to be interviewed on Saturday 2 November 2024.

The successful candidate will be notified as soon as possible and offered the position subject to satisfactory references, a satisfactory DBS disclosure at the enhanced level and a signed contract. [Note: A satisfactory DBS disclosure is essential as the Music Director will be working regularly with children or vulnerable adults. If the successful candidate has not been checked, the choir will arrange it and pay for it.] All other shortlisted candidates will be informed of the outcome by post.