



Guelph Youth Singers

Building choral excellence in our community

Call for Applications

Guelph Youth Singers - Chamber Choir Conductor

We are looking for a dynamic, community-oriented conductor to work with our Chamber Choir for our 2023-2024 season. This position is a one-year contract, with a possibility to extend the contract based on mutual agreement between the candidate and the Board of Directors. GYS Chamber Choir is an auditioned choir for youth ages 12 and up and is one of three main choirs within the Guelph Youth Singers. Chamber Choir is geared toward young musicians with intermediate to advanced musical skills and committed to continuing the development of musical skills through rigorous rehearsals, challenging repertoire, and an individually prepared sight-singing and ear-training program. Choristers will be involved in two full concerts (December and May) as well as the Kiwanis Music Festival of Guelph, and other community concerts and outreach opportunities. Professional collaborative opportunities involve the Guelph Chamber Choir and Guelph Symphony Orchestra. Rehearsals take place on Wednesdays late afternoon/early evening (exact time TBA) at the Guelph Youth Music Centre. The Conductor will work closely with the Board of Directors and the Artistic Director to create inspiring and engaging rehearsals and performance opportunities within the community.

This position is an immediate start, part time position. Interested applicants can submit a letter of interest, resume, and work reel or video to admin@guelphyouthsingers.com. The deadline to submit is **September 29th, 2023**. Invited applicants will then run a trial rehearsal with Chamber Choir on **October 4th or 11th, 2023**. Please note that choristers will be an active voice in determining candidate suitability.

Qualifications:

- Undergraduate degree or higher in relevant field (i.e., Bachelor of Music or Performance in Voice, focus on Choral Conducting or Music Education)
- Previous experience with choral or ensemble conducting
- Experience with youth arts education an asset
- Strong understanding of vocal pedagogy
- Ability to work in a team setting under existing Artistic Director

About GYS:

Guelph Youth Singers (GYS) is an award-winning choir with deep roots in our community for 30 years! GYS aims to support the well-being of children and youth in our community by providing an inclusive space to experience fun and high-quality musical training. We strive to brand Guelph as a city that values the arts and recognizes how the arts contribute to the healthy development of youth and children.

Guelph Youth Singers is committed to fostering, cultivating, and preserving a culture of equity, diversity, and inclusion. We acknowledge the systemic barriers that prevent equal access to choral work and are actively working to address these issues. Choral music is for all, and we as an organization are committed to creating an equitable, inclusive space. Our programming and modes of operation are guided by these principles.



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Key responsibilities of the interim conductor include:

- With the Artistic Director, select repertoire for each concert appropriate to the choir's abilities and goals
- Collaborate with the Artistic Director on artistic matters such as concerts, outreach opportunities, festivals, and possible touring
- Oversee sight-singing and musicianship development and follow the curriculum developed by the Artistic Director
- Prepare weekly memos highlighting work done in rehearsal, work to be done for next rehearsal - setting clear learning outcomes and goals (memos can include links to recordings, interesting facts about the pieces, and historical information)
- Attend board meetings OR read minutes of board meetings and assume responsibility of any new goals or directions from board meetings with oversight from Artistic Director
- Discuss guest artists needed for concerts with Artistic Director
- When available, attend or lead community concerts, fundraisers, or other events
- In collaboration with the Artistic Director, engage in community events and seek such events
- Actively recruit singers through outreach
- Communicate with parents/guardians of choristers as needed
- At least 3 weeks prior to performances, provide a list of concert pieces (some variation may be necessary, but this should be minimized)
- With the Artistic Director, make informed choices regarding Kiwanis Festival entries and repertoire

GYS has released three solo CDs:

- Birds in the Nest (1998)
- Wind in Our Sails (2002)
- Into the Breeze (2011)

GYS has also performed on CDs with:

- Guelph Chamber Choir
 - Christmas Night (1995)
- For the Canadian Literacy Association
 - Notable Canadian Choirs Sing Christmas Carols (1996)
- With the Guelph Folk Ensemble, Tamarack
 - Blanket of Snow (1998)
- Singing the Title Song of the CD
 - Song of Our City: A Musical Celebration of Guelph