



Our current Musical Director is retiring after 31 rewarding years with us, and the new Musical Director will be required from September 2022. We wish to recruit an experienced, enthusiastic Musical Director (MD) who shares our love of great choral music and will bring their own energy and inspiration to continue our very successful musical journey, whilst further developing our choir.

Founded in 1951 by the late Victor Leeson, The Guinness Choir (originally composed of brewery employees and their families), is one of Ireland's leading amateur SATB choirs which prides itself on its professional standards and the significant contribution it has made to the choral and musical life of Dublin city over 70 years.

Today, the choir consists of about 100 members, incorporating multiple nationalities. Our concerts draw large audiences nationwide and we enjoy the financial support of leading Irish businesses and of our Patrons and Friends.

Although formal links with the Diageo drinks group no longer exist, our enthusiastic Honorary Patron, the 4th Earl of Iveagh, ensures that the Guinness family remains associated with the choir.

The Guinness Choir is renowned for its performances of the great oratorios of Bach, Handel and similar major composers but is equally comfortable performing lesser-known works of the renaissance, baroque, classical and modern eras. We enjoy performing to large audiences in prestigious venues such as the National Concert Hall, St. Patrick's Cathedral, Wexford Opera House and the Waterfront Hall, Belfast. We are keen to perform countrywide and such concert venues have included Birr, Clifden and Longford, Waterford and Killarney. We have also travelled to Italy and Germany, giving a number of concerts there.

We contract distinguished Irish and international soloists and freelance professional orchestral players for each concert. We have also collaborated with the RTE Concert Orchestra & the Ulster Orchestra on several occasions.

In recent years we have broadened our appeal with a hugely popular Christmas Concert in St. Patrick's Cathedral Dublin, at which we have been joined by Special Guest artists from the popular idiom, including Paul Brady, Eleanor McEvoy and Mary Coughlan.



We are scheduled to perform Bach's 'Christmas Oratorio' in the RDS, Dublin in December 2022. We look forward to celebrating our 75th anniversary in the 2026/27 Season.

The choir rehearses weekly between September and May on Tuesday evenings from 7.45 p.m. to 10.15 p.m., in a Dublin City location. We are currently sourcing a new rehearsal venue, preferably close to the city centre, as our previous facility is no longer available. Typically, we perform 2/3 concerts per year.

The MD, in consultation with the committee, will be responsible for the following:

1. The development of a three year, rolling, performance repertoire and concert plan;
2. The planning and programming of these engagements;
3. Scheduling, preparing for and conducting rehearsals, including supplementary rehearsals as needed;
4. Engaging soloists and orchestral players;
5. Assessing and auditioning all candidates applying for membership;
6. Supporting the vocal and musical development of individual singers;
7. Guiding the choir's overall development;
8. Representing the choir in its public relations and promotional activities as required;
9. Undertaking other duties as required and agreed.

The choir has a clear, robust and transparent governance structure. The MD will serve as an officer of the committee and play a core role in the development of the choir by;

- a. Attendance at committee meetings
- b. Making proposals for repertoire and for new opportunities/events,
- c. Providing expert advice to the committee
- d. Working within agreed budgets.

**Essential Criteria**

Experience working with choirs at a high standard

A talented musician with a proven track record in choir training

Experience of orchestral conducting

Broad range of musical ambition for the choir

Ability/willingness to work in a constructive, collaborative environment

Excellent communication skills and a positive approach

Excellent keyboard skills, for rehearsal purposes. (We are willing to hire an accompanist for rehearsals immediately prior to concerts).

Desirable Criteria

Experience of collaboration with solo singers, orchestras and chamber groups

Track record of organisation and planning of choral events

Proven knowledge of vocal support and training.

A proficiency in remote collaboration technology and an ability to lead virtual rehearsals

Term The appointment will be based on a four-year contract, subject to a review after year one.

Remuneration Remuneration will be competitive, dependent on experience.

Further information Information about the choir, together with the job specification and application form are available on our website

www.guinnesschoir.org

Deadline The deadline for applications is **Friday 15th July 2022**