

Position of Music Director, Noosa Chorale Selection Criteria and Duty Statement

Applications are sought from suitably qualified and experienced people to undertake the role of Music Director, Noosa Chorale.

Background

Noosa Chorale is a community choir of around 70 members that was founded in 1994. Since its inception, it has performed major choral works such as the Requiems by Mozart, Verdi and Fauré, The Armed Man, Requiem and Stabat Mater by Karl Jenkins, a range of other sacred works, opera and musical theatre choruses and popular music. Normally, the Chorale performs three concerts a year, each with two performances, two of them major works with orchestra, and the third a Christmas concert.

Our current Music Director and Conductor, Adrian King, will retire at the end of 2022 following 16 years in the role. As well as retiring from this role, Adrian will also retire at the same time from his cognate roles with the Sunshine Coast Choral Society, and the Sunshine Coast Symphony Orchestra. His simultaneous leadership of these three organisations has facilitated collaborations in producing larger massed choral and orchestral events.

However, it should be noted that each organisation is undertaking its own recruitment for their music leadership position. Prospective candidates for the Noosa Chorale Music Director are welcome to apply for the cognate roles with our “sister” organisations.

Rehearsals are held once a week at The J Theatre in Noosa and concerts are usually performed at that venue. The Chorale has a talented accompanist, Janet Brewer, who attends weekly rehearsals and participates in our concerts. Audience numbers at our concerts have ranged between 300 and 500 patrons over recent years.

Although choir members are not auditioned, many are musically trained and, consistent with our commitment to high quality, professional standard performances, all singers are required to dedicate significant time and effort to independent practice and weekly rehearsals leading up to each concert.

The Music Director provides musical advice and guidance to the Chorale’s Management Committee, and together their efforts have advanced the choir’s excellent reputation, and ensured the social stability and financial viability of this non-profit organisation, even during the difficult years of the pandemic. Along with the executive roles of President, Secretary, and Treasurer, there is a Deputy Music Director who provides back-up support to the Music Director.

As well as its website (www.noosachorale.org.au), the Chorale makes use of the social media channels Facebook and Instagram, and the local press to promote the organisation and its concerts.

The role of Music Director: Selection Criteria

The Music Director provides musical leadership to Noosa Chorale and conducts its rehearsals and performances. Applicants for the role are invited to demonstrate how they meet the following selection criteria:

1. effectiveness in providing musical leadership to a choir;
2. experience in leading and conducting a choir of at least 40 singers;
3. experience in conducting rehearsals with a rehearsal pianist;
4. knowledge of and musicianship in choral music;
5. effectiveness in interacting with a management committee in designing an annual rehearsal and performance programme;
6. effectiveness in engaging musicians and soloists for performances through a network of contacts;
7. a leadership style that maintains a friendly and enjoyable rehearsal experience; and
8. effectiveness in maintaining and improving the performance standards of a choir.

Duty Statement

The Music Director of Noosa Chorale will:

1. rehearse the choir once a week for 2 hours (currently rehearsals are conducted 7pm to 9pm on Tuesdays) or more frequently if deemed appropriate;
2. conduct performances of Noosa Chorale;
3. engage, or advise on the engagement of, soloists to perform with the Chorale as appropriate;
4. put together, rehearse, and conduct an orchestra to accompany performances of Noosa Chorale and/or decide on, and arrange, other ensemble accompaniment where appropriate;
5. plan in advance an annual programme of music for the Chorale in consultation with the Management Committee; and
6. advise on alternative rehearsal and performance venues if The J Theatre is either unsuitable or unavailable.

Remuneration

The successful candidate for this position will be paid an annual honorarium, the amount of which is to be negotiated with the Management Committee Executive.

On appointment, the Music Director will liaise with the Management Committee to clarify the split of responsibilities for

1. securing appropriate choral and orchestral scores and obtaining any copyright clearances, if applicable, and
2. negotiating performance fees for musicians and soloists.

Recruitment Process

Recruitment for this critical position will commence in June 2022, with a planned commencement for the appointee in early 2023. We will keep the recruitment process open for the remainder of the year until we select a suitable person.

Interested people are invited to contact Noosa Chorale President Fran Wilson (franandadrian@gmail.com, phone 0418 205 297) to discuss the position if they wish, prior to submitting a formal application. Applications are to be emailed to Fran Wilson.