

HASLEMERE MUSICAL SOCIETY

CHORUS MASTER RECRUITMENT 2014

A BACKGROUND AND OVERVIEW

The Haslemere Musical Society, founded in 1923, currently performs three concerts per year and is one of comparatively few British musical societies to comprise both an orchestra and a chorus. HMS, as it is known, is a popular organisation with members drawn from Surrey as well as neighbouring West Sussex and Hampshire. Concerts include both choral and orchestral works, religious and secular; the repertoire is wide-ranging in respect of both period and style. HMS currently has a membership of 60 non-auditioned voices (SATB) and 35 orchestral members. Additional professional singers and instrumentalists are engaged as necessary for concerts. Further information is on our website, www.hmsoc.org.uk.

The chorus and orchestra rehearse on Monday evenings from early September until May, in separate rooms at Haslemere Hall, and then together as the concert approaches. The Director of Music, Dr James Ross, rehearses the orchestra, conducts the concerts and works in collaboration with the Chorus Master who prepares the chorus, assisted by the Rehearsal Pianist.

B CHORUS MASTER'S JOB DESCRIPTION

- 1 To be passionate and enthusiastic about choral music and to convey that to members and give them the confidence to share that passion.
- 2 To prepare the chorus and lead the choral rehearsals for the three concerts, usually held in December, March and May in Haslemere Hall.
- 3 To provide constructive help and support on choral technique to all sections of the chorus and to assist our less technically adept singers to develop their skills whilst maintaining the interest of the more accomplished.
- 4 To provide support to the Director of Music at the afternoon rehearsals before concerts and attend the concerts (and if appropriate join the chorus) to provide objective feedback and to assist HMS to improve the quality of performances.

- 5 To provide input and support to the Director of Music and HMS Committee for programme planning to achieve the right balance between being enterprising in what we tackle, appealing to our membership and offering a programme that is attractive to our audience whilst being cognisant of the financial implications of running the Society.
- 6 To organise a deputy for a chorus rehearsal, in consultation with the Director of Music, if unable to take a rehearsal.
- 7 To rehearse and conduct the Society's annual Come & Sing day, usually held on a Saturday in February.
- 8 To consult with the HMS Committee members and the Director of Music to ensure the ongoing success of the Society.

We hope that the Chorus Master will participate in social and fund-raising events held on behalf of the Society.

C PERSON DESCRIPTION

We are seeking a good match between the requirements and expectations of HMS and the expertise and personality of the new Chorus Master. To help focus attention, a summary person description follows:

- 1 Experienced in training choirs, with knowledge of classical choral repertoire.
- 2 Character/style
 - encouraging, approachable and patient
 - articulate and authoritative
 - aiming for a high standard
 - enthusiastic and fun
 - of good character, verified by supportive references
- 3 Reliable and organised, with no likely conflicts with other commitments
- 4 Hoping to work with the chorus for several years

Whilst not essential, we believe it is desirable that the Chorus Master lives within a one-hour commute of Haslemere.

D TERMS & CONDITIONS FOR CHORUS MASTER

Typically there are three Saturday evening concerts per year, in December, March and May, with about 30 rehearsals over the autumn, spring and summer terms. Rehearsals take place on Monday evenings at Haslemere Hall from 7.30-10.00 pm and on the afternoon of concert performances from 2.30-5.30. Concerts also are held in Haslemere Hall and commence at 7.30 pm.

A fee of £75 per rehearsal will be paid, plus a fee per concert (including rehearsal). A contribution to travel expenses if appropriate will be paid.

The appointment will commence with the rehearsal on 5th January 2015 and, for the benefit of both parties, a formal review with the Chairman of HMS and the Director of Music will take place shortly after the May 2015 concert and thereafter at intervals to be agreed.

Termination of the appointment requires a minimum of one term's written notice on either side.

E RECRUITMENT PROCESS

Monday 8 Sept 2014	Deadline for submission of applications
Tuesday 16 Sept	Notification to candidates of whether they have been short-listed for interview
Mondays 22 and 29 Sept	Interview dates for short-listed candidates
Mondays 6 and 13 Oct	Rehearsal auditions with chorus for finalists
By end October 2014	Appointment to be confirmed
5 January 2015	First rehearsal

F APPLICATION GUIDANCE

Completed applications must be received by *Monday 8 Sept 2014*

***Send via email to: Mr John Jackson, Chairman HMS
john.jackson@ukgateway.net***

Please create your own application form following the guidance below and send it with a current CV. All applications will be acknowledged. It is expected that interviews will be held on 22 and 29 September and that the finalists' auditions with the chorus will be held in the evening on 6 and 13 October. The rehearsal piece will be Haydn's Nelson Mass.

Personal Information

Full Name

Address

Tel. Nos. Day, Evening and Mobile

Email

Relevant Appointment(s)

Present Appointment(s) - Role, organisation, time in post

Other Relevant Appointment(s)

Please tell us how you heard of this vacancy, why you want to be HMS Chorus Master, and what skills and talents you would bring.

Referees Please give details of 2 professional referees (references will only be taken up if you are called for interview).

Name

Relationship

Address

Tel. Nos.

Email

Please conclude by affirming that the information supplied in your application and CV is true and correct.

Finally, please make sure your name is on each page.

SB - 16.7.14