



job posting artistic director

qualifications

We are seeking an experienced, dynamic and innovative Artistic Director who enjoys working with community choirs and has a particular passion for soul music, including gospel, spirituals, world music, blues, pop, soul, R&B... basically any type of music that touches, moves or inspires the soul.

The successful candidate will possess:

- A strong passion for, and a deep knowledge of, choral music.
- Inspiring choral leadership skills, able to work with singers and potential soloists with a wide variety of vocal and musical skills.
- A demonstrated ability to plan exciting and innovative concert programs within the scope of the choir's repertoire, that attract and inform audiences and create memorable musical experiences.
- Outstanding musicianship, including the ability to transcribe songs into SATB choral arrangements and band charts.
- Technical prowess to produce mp3 rehearsal tracks of all songs in our repertoire, by part and with all parts together.
- The ability to select and lead a resident accompanist (if required).
- The ability to select and lead a band of professional musicians to accompany the choir in concert.
- Strong rehearsal and time-management skills.

responsibilities

- Working in a manner consistent with the Choir's mandate values and practices, including participating in Board meetings as necessary. NOTE: Participation in Board meetings is on a consultative basis and does not include any voting rights.
- Working with the Choir Manager to:
 - Establish the 5 rehearsal dates and times for each of the two choir sessions each year: the Fall session runs from late August until the end of November, and the Spring session runs from early February until the end of May. (The Choir Manager books the concert dates with the theatre two years in advance, for the last Sunday of May and November each year.)
 - Select and engage guest artists for concerts.
- Selecting the Choir's repertoire of 10–11 songs each session, including:
 - Selecting up to 2–4 songs from the Choir's existing all-digital music library, and arranging/securing new music.
 - Preparing rehearsal vocal tracks for each new song as mp3 files, by part and with all parts together, including an SATB-NoSolo track when necessary.
 - Uploading the choir-chart/lyric-sheet pdf files and the mp3 rehearsal vocal tracks to our Google Drive. (The Choir Manager then handles the distribution to members and updates the library.)
- Planning, preparing for, and conducting all Choir rehearsals and concerts, including:
 - Conducting a 1-hour soloist rehearsal followed (after a break) by a 3-hour choir rehearsal on each rehearsal day.

- Holding soloist tryouts, and selecting required soloists and small groups from among the Choir.
 - Selecting and hiring, together with the Choir Manager, a resident accompanist, if required, and working with them on the interpretation and timing of the music.
 - Selecting and hiring, together with the Choir Manager, the band musicians for the concert, and conducting a rehearsal with the band about one month prior to the concert.
 - Conducting the stage rehearsal and concert with the choir and band on the day of the concert.
- Lead and/or assist in organizing special choir initiatives from time to time.
 - Pursue ongoing professional development and training to hone skills and remain current.

the organization

Island Soul Choir is a community choir in its truest sense. The choir is open to people of all ages who reside on or near Vancouver Island. Auditions are not required. It doesn't matter if a singer has never sung in a choir before or if they don't know how to read music. We just ask that our members love to sing. As a result, there is a wide range of singing skills among our members, from people who have never sung in a choir, to people who are highly trained musicians.

The choir's repertoire includes gospel, spirituals, world music, blues, pop, soul, R&B... basically any type of music that touches, moves or inspires the soul.

We conduct two choir sessions each year: the Fall session runs from late August until the end of November, and the Spring session runs from early February until the end of May. Singers register in advance online on a session-by-session basis and have the option to participate in-person or online-only. We accept up to 140 in-person singers each session; there is no limit on the number of online-only singers.

Rehearsals are held in Nanaimo, typically on Saturday afternoons. All rehearsals are available via Zoom for our online-only members and anyone who cannot attend in person; rehearsals are also video-recorded and later posted to the choir's website for members to review at any time. Members are also provided with vocal rehearsal mp3 tracks (either on CD or by download) of all songs in our repertoire, by part and with all parts together, to assist them with learning the music between rehearsals.

Unlike traditional choirs that rehearse weekly, Island Soul Choir rehearses only five times per session, about a month apart, before performing a session-end concert at The Port Theatre. As a result of the extended time between rehearsals, the choir attracts singers from all over Vancouver Island—from Victoria to Port Hardy to Bamfield, as well as Gabriola, Salt Spring, Cortes, Lasqueti and Quadra Islands. Now into our 17th year, Island Soul Choir continues to be popular in spite of (or maybe more due to) this unorthodox rehearsal format.

At each concert, the choir has been historically accompanied by a 4-piece band of professional musicians: Michael Creber on piano, Brent Gubbels on bass, Adam Rohrlick on guitar, and Craig Scott on drums. (Michael Creber also served as the choir's resident accompanist since 2019.) As an opening act, we feature a BC choir or other musical talent as a guest artist to add variety to the performance, support the guest in building their public exposure, and broaden our audience's music experience.

From time to time, Island Soul Choir organizes workshops with guest music professionals to expand our members' musical skills and knowledge. In the past, members interested in being soloists with the choir have participated in workshops with Jennifer Scott and Dawn Pemberton, and choir members have benefited from workshops with Linda Tillery, Patty Cuyler, and Jenny Lester.

Island Soul Choir has also hosted performances by other artists. These events are meant to not only support these BC-based artists, but also to be opportunities for our community to enjoy, and broaden their experience of, vocal performances.

More information about the choir can be found at: islandsoulchoir.com.

remuneration

Being our Artistic Director is a part-time contract position. Remuneration for regular rehearsal activities are covered by a contract, as follows:

- A rehearsal fee is paid in 5 equal instalments, at each rehearsal, along with a travel and meal allowance.
- A fee for producing the new vocal rehearsal mp3s is paid at the first rehearsal.

Performance fees are paid separately for the concert, as a professional musician.

Remuneration for any special initiatives is established as needed.

how to apply

Submit your application by March 31, 2024, to manager@islandsoulchoir.com. Your application needs to include:

- A cover letter and resumé that describes your training and experience, as well as your particular interest in Island Soul Choir and why you feel you would be a good fit for this position. Links to video and/or audio examples of your choral conducting work, in rehearsal and/or in performance, are also welcomed.
- Your contact information (e-mail, telephone, and mailing address).
- Contact information for at least three references, such as a music professional, a board or choir executive member, or a chorister who has sung in a group you have directed.
- Examples that demonstrate your experience and qualifications, such as concert programs and recent performances, links to audio and/or video recordings of your work, or other relevant materials.

Please note: While we appreciate the time and effort put into all applications, only short-listed candidates will be contacted for in-person interviews to move forward in the selection process.

Posted (updated): December 31, 2023

Application Deadline: March 31, 2024

Contact Person: Penny Mitchell

Contact E-Mail: manager@islandsoulchoir.com

Contact phone: 250-802-3345