

## **Musical Director of The London Chorus - Job Description**

### **Overview**

The London Chorus (TLC) has been performing a challenging and varied repertoire and developing its tradition of excellence for over a century. We are looking for an outstanding choral and orchestral conductor with a proven track record of leading amateur choirs to become our Musical Director from September 2025.

The London Chorus was founded in 1903 as The London Choral Society and has been led by several distinguished conductors including Sir Simon Rattle, Jane Glover and most recently, Ronald Corp. Ron stepped down earlier this year for health reasons and sadly died very recently.

The choir currently has around 90 members. We rehearse on Tuesday evenings from 18:45 to 21:30 in St Stephen's Church Hall, 48 Emperor's Gate, SW7, close to Gloucester Road Tube. Entry is by audition and members are normally re-auditioned every three years.

The choir enjoys tackling music from baroque to 20th and 21st century choral works, from oratorio to unaccompanied motets. We have performed large scale works such as Bach's B Minor Mass, Beethoven's Missa Solemnis and Elgar's The Dream of Gerontius as well as chamber works such as Handel's Dixit Dominus, Bernstein's Chichester Psalms or Rachmaninov's Vespers. Our more informal Christmas concerts include a popular selection of carols and anthems. We also undertake paid work, for example, working with the Elgar Sinfonia or supporting Katherine Jenkins in her Christmas concert programme and, in the past, Classical Spectaculars at the Royal Albert Hall. In 2018 TLC was honoured to take part in the BBC Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Armistice Day.

Recently, thanks to some generous sponsorship, we have performed some rarely heard English works including Herbert Howells's Hymnus Paradisi and Arthur Bliss's Morning Heroes. Our schedule for Autumn 2025 includes Mozart's Requiem and Handel's Messiah.

A typical season's programme comprises three or four concerts sponsored by the choir together with our Christmas concert in December. We also hold at least one Come & Sing event featuring a popular choral work such as Haydn's Creation. These events attract visiting singers and potential new choir members. Every two or three years the choir also goes 'on tour' with previous trips to South Africa, Verona, Warsaw and most recently, Naples. We are planning a tour to Berlin in May 2026.

The choir is a registered charity, and is run by a hard-working, enthusiastic management committee (TLC Council). Our members also contribute a wide range of useful skills to the running of the choir including undertaking publicity campaigns, running a weekly raffle and making cakes for the break during rehearsals.

Our ambition is to grow the choir's membership to c.120, performing a challenging and varied repertoire and continually developing the choir's reputation and tradition of excellence. In support of this we will be introducing a choral scholarship programme later in 2025. A Musical Director who could help bring in a new cohort of singers to bolster the choir would be especially valuable to us: as would one with a network of potential sponsors.

### **Main Duties and Responsibilities**

As our Musical Director, your main duty will be to conduct rehearsals on Tuesday evenings between September and July (around 40 rehearsals), and conduct TLC promoted concerts through the year as well as our Come & Sing event(s). You will also assist our concert manager with selecting and booking professional soloists and orchestral players. You will be expected to work closely with the Chairman and TLC Council members to ensure the choir's smooth running and development and explore options for future concert programmes, taking account of available funding. The Council meets every four or five weeks, usually on a Tuesday evening before the rehearsal, and you will be expected to attend these meetings.

You should be:

- An established choral conductor with experience of working with orchestras
- Able to teach vocal technique in a choral context
- Able to deliver exciting and enjoyable rehearsals to a high musical standard
- A good communicator
- Have a business-like approach to administration

You should have experience of:

- Working with amateur choirs and how to inspire them to the highest possible standards of performance
- Working with professional musicians (orchestras, soloists)
- Planning imaginative and engaging concert programmes with broad audience appeal, which will develop the choir.
- Working with a well-run, volunteer-led committee.

Other Requirements will be to:

- Plan a rehearsal schedule to ensure that the choir is prepared, confident and able to give exceptional performances for our audiences
- Lead the musical and technical development of the choir; re-audition existing singers every three years, with the aim of encouraging their personal development as individual singers and advising them on areas for improvement
- Contribute to attracting new singers to the choir and taking auditions for potential new singers.

## Remuneration

Fees, payable to the successful candidate, will be dependent on qualifications and experience and will be payable monthly on submission of an invoice. Fees will be subject to annual review. You will be engaged as a self-employed contractor.

## Application Process & Timetable

If you are attracted by what TLC can offer and you feel up to the challenge, please apply directly by submitting:

- Your CV with full details of your musical qualifications and experience.
- A letter explaining your motivation for applying and how you would see your role as Musical Director of TLC (no more than 500 words).
- Programme ideas for two concerts: one that could be performed with piano and/or organ accompaniment and up to two soloists; a second to be performed with a full orchestra plus soloists.
- Details of two referees who can vouch for your professional musical work.

Candidates who are shortlisted will be asked to come for a panel interview during the second half of June/early July. Those successful at interview will then be invited to take a 40-minute rehearsal with the choir at the start of the 2025/26 Season in September. The successful candidate will be chosen by TLC's Council with significant input from the membership.

We would like our new Musical Director to take up their post in Autumn 2025.

**Applications should arrive no later than 6pm on Friday 6 June 2025. They should be sent, by email, to [secretary@londonchorus.org.uk](mailto:secretary@londonchorus.org.uk)**



Further details about The London Chorus can be found on our [website](#).