

## Job Description

### Kingston Choral Society - Rehearsal Accompanist

#### Background

Kingston Choral Society (registered charity 261522) began life as Surbiton Oratorio Society with a performance of the Messiah in March 1950. By 1985 the choir had become more closely involved with the Royal Borough of Kingston and adopted our current name. We are known locally as KCS.

With over 100 singers, we have gained a reputation for quality music making across a wide spectrum of the choral repertoire. We are led by our talented and renowned Musical Director [Andrew Griffiths](#), and our concerts feature professional musicians and both emerging and leading soloists. You can read more about our past concerts on our [website](#) Besides our performances beyond and within the Royal Borough, we engage with the local community by involving ourselves in outreach projects including school and care home visits and carol singing.

We now have an opportunity for an accomplished and motivated musician to join us to accompany rehearsals at the piano. KCS meets on Thursday evenings between 8-10pm at the Hollyfield School, Surbiton, a five-minute walk from Surbiton Station.

#### Job and person specification

The successful candidate will be a talented and versatile pianist, who is well organised and committed to making music as part of a friendly community choir. They will be capable of supporting the Musical Director in rehearsing the choir so that we improve week by week and sing with increasing confidence and polish.

#### Essential skills are:

- Accompanying from an orchestral reduction in a stylish manner
- Following the Musical Director's beat attentively and responsively
- Supporting the choir by score-reading vocal parts as necessary
- Listening to the choir, and adapting the keyboard support depending on their needs
- Demonstrating one or more vocal parts on the piano with a harmonic background
- Harmonising vocal exercises by ear during choir warm-ups in such a way as to encourage chorus engagement
- The ability to transpose as requested (with plenty of warning) by the Musical Director
- The flexibility to adapt to and work well with occasional stand-in Musical Directors
- The foresight and networks to engage occasional stand-in accompanists of suitable calibre if they are unable to attend a rehearsal

**Desirable skills include:**

- The ability to rehearse a section or sections of the choir from the piano
- The ability to take a full rehearsal in the absence of the Musical Director
- The ability to take all or part of a full rehearsal from the piano in the unexpected absence of the Musical Director
- The ability to score-read orchestral scores
- Experience in a comparable role with another choir
- The ability to accompany concerts on the organ. (Applications from non-organists are nonetheless encouraged).

**Personal qualities:**

- Strong time management and organisational skills
- Excellent written and verbal communication
- The ability to work collaboratively as part of a team

The remuneration rate is £90 for each two-hour rehearsal call. Travel expenses may be claimed and are paid at up to £10 per rehearsal.

If suitable, the appointed candidate may be invited to take part in KCS concerts, either as a soloist or accompanist on piano and/or organ. Any concert engagements will be subject to remuneration at a mutually agreed rate.

**Application details**

To apply, please submit your CV, names and contact details of two referees, and a supporting letter of up to 600 words, setting out your suitability and motivation to become the new KCS accompanist, to the KCS Secretary Anna Cronin: [annakcs@btinternet.com](mailto:annakcs@btinternet.com). Please tell us if you do not wish us to contact referees prior to interview. If you would like to discuss the role before applying please email the KCS Chair, Debbie Lye: [debolye@gmail.com](mailto:debolye@gmail.com).

The appointment panel will assess the applications and will invite a shortlist of candidates to an audition in the form of a Thursday evening rehearsal with the choir members present, and subsequently to a virtual interview. It would therefore be helpful if you could indicate your availability for Thursday evenings in October, November and December in your application. We expect to make the final appointment decision in early December, and that the appointed candidate will take up the position in early January 2022.

**The application deadline is 5.00pm on 1 October 2021.**