



## UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER CHORUS

### CHORUS CONDUCTOR

#### PARTICULARS OF APPOINTMENT

- 1 The University of Manchester Chorus invites applications for the above post, which is tenable on an annually renewable contractual basis from 16 September 2024
- 2 Remuneration will be £7,750 per annum payable by invoice in biannual instalments
- 3 Informal enquiries may be made to Professor James Garratt, Head of Music Department (garratt@manchester.ac.uk).
- 4 Applications should be returned by **Wednesday 22 May 2024** to:

Professor James Garratt  
The University of Manchester Chorus  
Martins Harris Centre for Music and Drama  
Coupland Street  
Manchester  
M13 9PL

Or by email to [garratt@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:garratt@manchester.ac.uk)

- 5 If you have not been contacted by the end of May you should assume that, on this occasion, your application has not been successful. We would, however, like to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest in The University of Manchester, and we hope that this will not deter you from applying for other positions in the future.

# UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER CHORUS CONDUCTOR

## FURTHER PARTICULARS

### THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER CHORUS

Founded in 1936, the University Chorus is a non-auditioning choir with a membership of around 200 students, staff and alumni of the University of Manchester, as well as members from the wider community of Manchester and beyond. Now reaching the end of its 88th season, repertoire in recent years has included Beethoven: *Missa Solemnis*, in a new edition produced by Barry Cooper; Britten: *War Requiem*; Bernstein: *Chichester Psalms*; Poulenc: *Gloria*; a specially commissioned work by John Casken: *Light into my Dark*; and shorter works by Esenvalds, Lauridsen, Makaroff, DeFord, Paulus, Hagenberg, Forrest, Elgar, Beamish, Daley and Florence Price (*Song of Hope*). The Chorus's biannual concerts usually take place in the University's impressive Whitworth Hall in December and April, although large-scale concerts in other Manchester venues are also arranged from time to time, most recently an outstandingly successful rendition of Britten's *War Requiem* at the Bridgewater Hall. Rehearsals take place during the University's Undergraduate term-time on Thursday evenings from 7.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m. in the Cosmo Rodewald Concert Hall at the Martin Harris Centre for Music and Drama on Bridgeford Street, just off Oxford Road. Concerts and rehearsals are conducted by the Chorus Conductor, but three auditioned student choral conductors are appointed annually to support the Chorus Conductor, mainly in taking sectional rehearsals as required.

Chorus enjoys a close relationship with the Music Department at the University and with Manchester University Music Society, whose Symphony Orchestra provides orchestral accompaniment for University Chorus concerts. Chorus is managed by a small Chorus Committee, comprising a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and other named posts, all of whom are elected annually from among the student members, and a group of co-opted members comprising long-standing members of the non-student body. The Head of the Music Department is ex officio Director of the University Chorus and both he and the Chorus Conductor sit on the Chorus Committee.

Two smaller choirs are housed within the University of Manchester choral programme: (i) Ad solem, an auditioned choir of 24 singers, and (ii) the Cosmo Singers, an auditioned choir of about 40 singers. Each choir has two auditioned student choral conductors attached to it. The Chorus Conductor oversees the work of the student choral conductors, who conduct the rehearsals and concerts. A group selected from Ad solem were invited to perform under the Chorus Conductor at the Chinese University of Hong Kong in January 2024.

Further details of the University Chorus, its membership, the Chorus Committee and its past repertory are available on the University Chorus website at <http://www.universitychorus.org.uk/>.

## **JOB DESCRIPTION**

The post holder will be required to:

- Provide artistic directorship for the University Chorus, including choosing appropriate repertory, for approval by Music's Head of Department
- Prepare and lead all rehearsals of University Chorus, and the University of Manchester Symphony Orchestra (where it accompanies the Chorus). On the rare occasions that the conductor is unable to attend a rehearsal, they must ensure that the conducting assistants are prepared to run the rehearsal in their place.
- Liaise with the appointed student conductors in making arrangements and preparations for sectional rehearsals of the University Chorus
- Run the auditions for student choral conductors
- Ensure opportunities for conducting and performing are shared equitably among the students available
- Attend auditions for Ad solem and the Cosmo Singers and have oversight for their concerts in collaboration with the appointed student conductors. The Chorus Conductor is not expected to attend all the rehearsals and liaises with the student conductors in the allocation of responsibilities for conducting and rehearsing this choir
- Attend Chorus Committee meetings (online, no more than monthly) to discuss issues and problems relating to the artistic direction and day-to-day running of the University Chorus with the Chorus President and Committee
- Liaise with the Chorus Committee about the artistic direction of the University Chorus, relating both to each season's programmes and to longer-term planning for the ensembles
- Liaise with the Treasurer of the Chorus Committee about all costs relating to the appointment of soloists and to music and instrument hire
- Discuss issues and problems relating to contractual matters with the Head of the Music Department
- Liaise with Manchester University Music Society's Head Concert Manager and the Chorus President to produce orchestral rehearsal timetables for chorus concerts, relating to weekend and concert-day rehearsals

## **PERSON SPECIFICATION**

### **Essential Criteria**

The successful candidate will:

- Have experience and expertise in preparing and leading rehearsals of a large mixed-ability choir
- Have experience and expertise in the conducting of concerts involving a large mixed-ability choir and an orchestra
- Have experience in providing artistic directorship for a large mixed-ability choir, including in the choice of appropriate repertory and the development of suitable long-term goals

- Be able to demonstrate an ability to work with students and older amateur singers, and to lead them with flair, enthusiasm and patience

### **Desirable Criteria**

- Experience in working with student conductors in the preparation and leading of choir rehearsals and concerts

### **APPLICATION AND INTERVIEW**

- Candidates who wish to be considered for the post of Chorus Conductor should submit the following to Professor James Garratt, Head of Music Department, by 5.00 p.m. on **Wednesday 22 May 2024**:
  - A Curriculum Vitae comprising **no more than 3 sides of A4** and including details of experience relevant to the post
  - A covering letter outlining how their skills and experience meet the person specification outlined above
- Shortlisted candidates will be asked to attend for interview and audition on **Thursday 30 May 2024**. Interviews will begin at 5.00 p.m.
- Shortlisted candidates will also be asked to undertake a brief audition on the same day. Auditions will begin at 7.00 p.m. Candidates will be required to undertake a brief (15-minute) rehearsal of the University Chorus in the Cosmo Rodewald Concert Hall, using as set material sections of Verdi's Requiem:
  - Mvt 7 – the start of the Libera Me fugue to the end. Bar 179 to the end. (In Ricordi edn, fig 100 to the end)
  - Mvt 2 – bar 645 to the end (Lacrymosa). (In Ricordi edn, fig 51 to the end)

A rehearsal pianist will be provided for the audition.