



Berkshire Children's Chorus

Artistic Director (part time)

Mission Statement: Berkshire Children's Chorus (BCC) provides students with musical experiences that develop personal and artistic excellence, support the growth of positive values, and enrich our community.

About Berkshire Children's' Chorus:

Berkshire Children's Chorus is an extra-curricular chorus for students grades 1-12 who are interested in working on the finest treble choir music available. It was founded in Sheffield, MA in 1990.

There are three ensembles organized by age: Junior Choir (grades 1-5), Senior Choir (grades 5-9), and Coda (girls, grades 9-12). Each ensemble rehearses in Sheffield once a week after school hours. Choristers learn classical and contemporary music in a variety of styles and are able to explore and perform repertoire that is more challenging than what they might find in school.

The organization primarily serves the southern part of Berkshire County, bringing choral music to children, their families, and audiences from Lenox to Sheffield, as well as some surrounding towns in New York State and Connecticut. The communities served by the Chorus are rural, and the school districts are very small.

This is a true community organization, sustained by devoted musical staff, volunteer board members, engaged parents, and donations from the community members who are also our audience. Most importantly, the Chorus has survived and thrived for 30 years because the musical and educational experiences that it offers fill an important niche for local children. As an organization, we work hard, love singing, and want to make this opportunity available to as many boys and girls as possible.

Candidate Profile:

The ideal candidate for this position is an inspirational, visionary, and an experienced music educator with a successful track record working with children. S/he is confident, musically curious, artistically adventurous, and a committed collaborator. The Artistic Director embraces the Berkshires' and Tri-State Area's vibrant and innovative arts community and will help position BCC as a well-known and respected institution in this region. S/he will build on BCC's three decades of artistic excellence and will – together with the Board of Trustees – lead the Berkshire Children's Chorus to an even more inclusive and broader presence in the Tri-State Area.

Position:	ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
Reports to:	President of the Board of Trustees
Scope of Position:	To develop and carry out artistic programming, collaborations, education, and performances that advance the mission of the organization.
Status:	Part-time. Approximately 10-12 hours per week. Oversee administrative duties and conduct 3 ensembles.
Compensation:	\$10,000-15,000 (depending on qualifications and experience).
Contract:	Annual contract with potential for renewal pending annual evaluation.

Responsibilities:

1. Promote the Chorus' organizational well-being (20%)

- Work with the Chorus, the Board, parents, and volunteers to promote a positive atmosphere of community within the organization.
- Network with other arts organizations, music directors, and community groups to increase the visibility of the Chorus and to encourage collaboration.
- At the invitation of the Board, attend Board meetings and provide input for Board decisions. Provide regular reports in advance of Board meetings.
- Collaborate with the Board to further improve the organization's financial sustainability by preparing an annual budget with the Board Treasurer, as well as participating in the narrative and budget development of grant proposals and fundraising appeals.
- Create a professional development plan with the Board of Trustees (to be reviewed in annual evaluations) and maintain and update professional competence.

2. Design, coordinate, and direct Chorus programming (65%)

- Develop, lead, and maintain the artistic vision for all ensembles and programs. Undertake collaborations and choose themes and music for concert programs that inspire Chorus members and audiences alike.
- Develop an annual performance and rehearsal schedule of concerts and trips that advance the organization's mission.
- Lead enjoyable weekly rehearsals that develop Chorus members' musicianship and build the Chorus community.
- Promote excellent standards of choral musicianship for all ensembles and programs, including recruiting and managing accompanists and guest musicians.

3. Lead and participate in the Chorus' administration (15%)

- Develop and implement recruitment and retention plans to increase the enrollment and impact of the Berkshire Children's Chorus across the region.
- Execute on a balanced budget.
- Hire, supervise, and provide leadership for music-related staff.
- Engage regularly with Chorus parents and coordinate parent volunteers.
- Secure new arrangements and performance rights where appropriate, purchase new music when needed.
- Mobilize support from parent volunteers and Board members to manage planning, communication, administrative and artistic details for concerts and trips.

Required Experience, Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:

- BA or Advanced Degree in Music with an emphasis in choral conducting.
- Interest in and commitment to embracing the mission of the Chorus.
- Ability to offer strong leadership skills as well as proven strengths as a collaborator.
- Flexibility in working with a diverse group of volunteers and personalities.
- Strong communication skills, both written and verbal.
- Proficiency in standard office suite software.

Preferred Experience, Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:

- Experience conducting or working with a community-based chorus and with children of various ages, musical skills, and experience.
- An entrepreneurial spirit, with a history of building successful collaborative projects.
- Experience singing in or working for an extracurricular children's chorus.

Starting Date: August 1, 2021

Application Process:

- Please submit a cover letter describing interest and qualifications, along with a CV or resume, and a list of references to voices@berkshirechildrenschorus.org. Include “Artistic Director” in the subject line. Applications will only be accepted electronically.
- No calls, please. All applications will be treated as confidential.
- The Board of Trustees will begin to review applications in January 2021. Applications are accepted until a candidate is chosen which we anticipate will be no later than May 2021. Submissions in February and March are preferred.
- Optional materials, which may also be submitted, include copies of recent concert programs which the candidate conducted, repertoire lists, or YouTube/Vimeo links to recent performances of the candidate conducting.

The Berkshire Children’s Chorus is an equal opportunity employer.