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Musical Director Position FAQs

Position Details

Q: What are the primary responsibilities of the Musical Director?

Lead rehearsals, select repertoire, conduct performances, develop vocal techniques, and provide artistic leadership for the chorus. A complete description is available in the job description document on the chorus website.

Q: Is this a full-time or part-time position?

There is 1 director for the chorus, and 1 assistant director. From this perspective it is a full time position for the chorus, but would generally be considered a part-time position. The position includes weekly rehearsals, periodic performances, attendance at the annual regional competition weekend, attendance at international competition when the chorus is competing and for educational purposes if the chorus is not competing, coaching sessions, occasional weekend retreats, some committee meetings.

Q: Are you looking for a long-term commitment?

We anticipate that this position will be filled by an individual who is established and is not looking to move out of the area, and is interested in pursuing excellence with the chorus for as long as both the chorus and the director desire.

Qualifications

Q: What educational background is preferred?

Music degree preferred, with significant choral conducting experience. Professional or academic training in vocal music is essential. Experience in the barbershop style is preferred but not required.

Q: What skills are most important for this role?

In addition to conducting skills and vocal technique knowledge, leadership and organizational skills are essential to success in this position.

Application Process

Q: What materials should be included in my application?

Resume, conducting philosophy, musical background, references, and sample repertoire selections. There is an online application and attachments can be sent to directorsearch@riverblenders.org

Q: What is the application timeline?

Applications will close on May 15, 2025.

Q: Will there be a formal audition?

Interviews with the Director Search committee will be conducted prior to the scheduling of auditions. If invited, applicants will participate in a conducting audition with the chorus. Auditions will begin in June.

Rehearsals & Performance

Q: How often does the chorus rehearse?

Weekly rehearsals, typically 2-3 hours, with additional pre-performance rehearsals.

Q: What performance schedule should I expect?

A show every other year, 3-4 community and special event performances annually, regional competition every year, international competition every other year.

Compensation & Commitment

Q: What is the compensation for the role?

See the compensation summary on the webpage.

Q: Are there Certification requirements?

The chorus will require the individual to complete the Director Certification Program within a year of being hired if not already a Certified Director.

Q: Is there a formal contract given to the Director? If so, what is the length of the contract?

One year agreement with annual performance evaluation by the Management Team, Assistant Director and Section Leaders.

Artistic Vision

Q: What musical styles does the chorus perform?

For competition purposes, the musical style is strictly barbershop style harmony. However the chorus has a diverse repertoire including Broadway show tunes, pop, traditional and holiday music. Music is performed without sheet music or accompaniment and is sometimes choreographed by a visual performance team.

Q: What is the difference between Sweet Adelines and the Barbershop Harmony Society?

The barbershop genre is identical for these organizations. The main differences are in judging categories, competition scoring, songs acceptable for competition and calendars for competition.