

Job Description - Interim Music Director for the Seattle Labor Chorus

The Seattle Labor Chorus (SLC) is a non-auditioned community chorus of about 30 members, now in its third decade. It is a nonprofit organization dedicated to economic and social justice, and the fundamental right of all workers to organize as a means of securing a living wage. While the chorus primarily serves the labor community, its repertoire reflects the concerns of all who wish to promote a healthier, more equitable society. The Chorus functions as a democratic, largely self-managing body of volunteers; all members are involved in the work of the chorus, which includes governance, fundraising, and producing performances. As a 501(c)(3) organization, it is formally governed by an elected Coordinating Committee (CC), which meets on one evening each month.



SLC's long-time Musical Director is retiring, and the Chorus is seeking one or more Interim Music Directors to lead rehearsals and performances during the 2019-2020 season, which begins in September, 2019. This person need not be someone interested in becoming the next permanent Music Director of the Chorus, although serving as an Interim Music Director will not disqualify an individual from applying for that position if they so desire.

We're an unusual chorus. Unlike most choruses, we do not have a set performance schedule (apart from a few songs at our annual singalong in March, and usually having a set at the Folklife Festival in May). Rather, we perform in response to community needs, at labor and progressive events. Because the timing is ad hoc, typically not all chorus members perform at any given event; when a performance opportunity arises, members are polled for availability. A committee of the chorus will seek performance opportunities next season; the Interim Music Director will not be responsible for seeking these. However, after members have been polled, the Interim Music Director will have the largest voice in deciding if we have sufficient voices to accept an invitation, or what songs that subset of members can perform well. Most of the SLC performances are done acapella, with instruments periodically included.

We have a large repertoire of arranged songs we have learned over the past two decades, that many or most members know, and these are revived and adapted as appropriate to serve the event we are singing for. During this interim year, we anticipate adding only one or two new songs to our repertoire; these will be arranged by chorus members over the summer, so we do not need the Interim Music Director to select or arrange new songs for next season. The Interim Music Director will teach us these songs, and re-teach songs from our old repertoire as we revive them.

The Interim Music Director will be responsible for:

- Leading rehearsals, including deciding which songs to rehearse and when/whether a song is up to performance standards
- Conducting performances, including creating the set list and coordinating with chorus members to do song introduction and related history/background information for the audience
- Leading sectionals
- Deciding whether we have sufficient voices to accept a gig, and what songs are in good enough shape to perform

Essential skills for the Interim Music Director are:

- Ability to teach songs arranged in 3 or 4 parts
- Ability to correct singers' technique and pitch
- Ability to conduct in a variety of venues
- Ability to use a keyboard or other musical mode to demonstrate and support singers during rehearsals

It is also essential for the Interim Music Director to have:

- An attitude of service to the progressive community
- Schedule flexibility for performances, which may include evenings or weekends
- Cheerful patience with a group of experienced, but not necessarily trained, singers
- Availability to attend Coordinating Committee meetings

SLC will hire an Administrative Coordinator in August 2019, who will coordinate major administrative tasks of the Chorus.

Compensation is \$900/month, starting in mid-August 2019. The position is envisioned to last approximately 6 months; the Chorus expects to hire a permanent Music Director in early 2020, at which time the Interim Music Director position will end. The work required of this position is envisioned as approximately 25 hours/month. The Interim Music Director will be an independent contractor (without benefits), and will report to, and be supported by, the CC co-chairs.

TO APPLY: Please submit the following indicating your interest in this position:

- **cover letter, including why you're interested in this position and describing relevant experience**
- **resume**
- **at least 3 references**

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Send all materials to: slcIMDapps@gmail.com with “SLC IMD Application” in the subject line.

You will receive an automatic response that your materials have been received. If you don't receive an auto response, contact Lou 206-783-0990.

Applications are due by June 30, 2019