

Accompanist Vacancy

Barnsley Youth Choir and Barnsley Singers are seeking to appoint a new accompanist who is also able to lead sectional rehearsals. This is a key appointment at an exciting time. Both choirs have ambitious and exciting plans for the future and are led by very positive, enthusiastic and committed leadership teams. The atmosphere in both choirs is exceptionally positive and they are both developing at pace. The choirs combined membership is now over 500.

We are looking for someone with exceptional skills; a highly talented pianist with excellent communication skills and an ability to adapt and be flexible. This is a key appointment and this person/s will play a significant role in supporting the choirs in the next stage of their development.

This position may suit an individual who is able to work across both choirs, or two separate people to work with the choirs individually. Both choirs rely on the good will of local supporters to operate financially. Many of the Musical Director team work unpaid and, whilst we will pay a rehearsal and concert fee to the new accompanist, we hope that the attraction in joining this world class team would outweigh any financial reward.

Barnsley Youth Choir rehearse on Thursday evenings from 5.45pm – 9.00pm at Horizon Community College. The choir have engagements in this country and abroad and have a busy but exciting calendar working with outstanding partners from across the choral world.

Barnsley Singers rehearse on Tuesday evenings from 7.00pm – 9.00pm at Horizon Community College. They have a developing calendar with a number of events organised and are entering their first international choral competition in the autumn of 2018 in Barcelona.

This is a fantastic opportunity to join a world class team and we are keen to hear from talented pianists who are keen to join us on the next stage of our exciting journey.

Please email our Musical Director / Artistic Director Mat Wright on bycmatwright@gmail.com if you would like to know more about the position/s or would like to apply. All enquiries will be dealt with discreetly. The closing date for applications is 28th October 2017.

We look forward to hearing from you!



Information about the Choirs

Barnsley Youth Choir is a charity that was founded in 2009 by Mat Wright and Keith Norton. The choir now has over 360 members aged 7-24 years old and serves one of the most deprived areas of England. The choir is run by a committed and talented team of 50 adult volunteers and 7 Musical Directors and accompanists. BYC has developed an impressive international profile and works closely with the Aurin and Miraculum Choirs from the Kodaly School in Hungary. It has also worked with Pretoria Chamber Choir (RSA), Adolf Fredriks School (Swe), Laszlo Duranyik (Hun), Thomas Caplin (Nor), Romans Vanags (Lat), Michael Barrett (RSA), Steven Roberts (GB), Tony Margeta (Swe) amongst others. The choir has represented GB in numerous international competitions and has performed in important venues across the world including Riga (Lat), Magdeburg (Ger), Stockholm (Swe), Edinburgh (Sco) and various venues in London. The choir received an MBE in June 2017 and has appeared on BBC TV and Radio on several occasions.

Barnsley Youth Choir is ranked 4th in the World Rankings in its category and is the highest ranked choir in the overall World Rankings from Great Britain. BYC is the current double European Champion and double Grand Prix winners and have won 8 first prizes in prestigious international competitions from the 9 competitions that it has entered. BYC sings a varied repertoire ranging from contemporary composers such as Arnesen and Gjello to Pop, Spiritual and Gospel pieces that are performed at a very high level in up to 10 parts. The choir is split into 3 sections:

BYC Children's Choir – 140 children aged 7-11 years old	SSA
BYC Intermediate Choir – 110 children aged 10-16 years old	SSMMAA
BYC Senior Choir – 110 young people aged 14-24 years old	SSMMAATB

The new accompanist will be able to read challenging repertoire but will also be able to play from lead sheets and develop appropriate accompaniments from chord symbols.

The 3 choirs have their own Musical Director and a number of Assistant Directors. There are currently 2 accompanists involved but we are keen to add capacity to manage the increasing commitments on our current accompanists.

Barnsley Singers is a newly formed adult choir founded in October 2016 by Mat Wright and Luke Mather. The choir has over 150 regular members and is already developing a reputation locally. The first year has been incredibly successful and has included sell-out concerts.

The choir is very much a community choir. It is inclusive and has members of all ages and levels of experience. There are no auditions but we voice test to ensure that people are placed in the correct parts.

The choir sings a range of repertoire including pop and gospel arrangements and more established work such as *The Armed Man* by Jenkins.

The choir is run by a fantastic team of volunteers. The management team are particularly impressive and have ambitious plans for the choir and the skills to deliver them. There is a team of 3 musicians – Mat Wright (Artistic Director), Luke Mather (Musical Director) and Rob Cooper (Assistant Musical Director/Accompanist) and we are keen to add another accompanist to this team. The new accompanist will be able to read challenging repertoire but will also be able to play from lead sheets and develop appropriate accompaniments from chord symbols.