Barnsley Youth Choir

For the voices of the young people of Barnsley

Musical Director
Vacancy

Barnsley Youth Choir is seeking to appoint a new Musical Director to complement an outstanding existing team that runs rehearsals and concerts and provides opportunities for around 700 children and young people aged 0-24 years old. This is a freelance role that carries a fee for rehearsals and concerts and provides an opportunity to work within a vibrant and ambitious organisation that has developed an international reputation for excellence.

The Musical Director will lead a new Intermediate Choir (10-16 years) that will rehearse on Tuesday evenings and one of our Children's Choirs (7-12 years) that rehearses on Wednesday evenings. This may be one role to cover either choirs, or separate appointments on each of the evenings. There may also be scope to work with the Senior Choir and lead rehearsals with this award winning group. The music team at the choir is a very positive, supportive and skilled team that is provided with significant training and development opportunities. Whilst the focus for this work will be on specific choirs, the team does work to support one another. It is an incredibly strong, selfless and positive team ethos, and this role is important as we continue to develop our provision.

The new Intermediate Choir will have around 60-80 members aged 10-16 years old and is an upper voice choir (SMA) that sings in up to 6 parts. This will complement the other Intermediate Choir (SATB) that rehearses on a Thursday evening, and will become the 13th Choir within Barnsley Youth Choir.

The Children's Choir that is available to lead can be discussed with the candidate. We currently have 4 Children's Choirs. All 4 of these choirs sing in up to 3 parts.

- Children's Choir Central has around 100 members and is based in the centre of Barnsley
- Children's Choir East has around 40 members and is based in Goldthorpe
- Children's Choir West has around 70 members and is based in Penistone
- Children's Choir South has around 40 members and is based in Hoyland

First and foremost, the appointed Musical Director must be a strong musician with appropriate experience and qualifications. Whilst not a necessity, experience of working with children and/or young people is advantageous, and a background in choral leadership and conducting would be beneficial. We welcome applications from all ranges of experience, including those who have recently graduated.

It's an exciting time to join Barnsley Youth Choir. This season we will welcome international choral leaders and choirs from across the world as well as significant choirs from the UK including The Sixteen and VOCES8. We have developed important international partnerships which will provide wonderful development opportunities for those working within BYC and the singers themselves. The new development, the Northern Academy of Vocal Excellence (the NAVE) is making progress and will provide an outstanding bespoke choral development facility in the coming years. Barnsley Youth Choir will be based at this venue, and there will be exciting opportunities to develop, take on additional roles and be involved in important international projects.

We feel that this is an exciting opportunity to join the choir, and we hope that you will consider applying. To make an expression of interest or to have informal and confidential conversation about this role please contact the Artistic Director, Mat Wright MBE, on 07949296304 or contact via email bycmatwright@gmail.com

Please apply formally by writing in an email to our Artistic Director, detailing your experience, skills and qualifications and why you would liketo join the team. Please also include the details of two referees. The deadline for applications is October 23rd 2026. This role is subject to DBS checks and references. It is hoped that the person appointed will start this role in January 2027.