



Woden Valley Youth Choir ROLE OPPORTUNITY

INTERIM CONDUCTOR (AUSTRALIS VOICES & SPECTRA ENSEMBLE)

Woden Valley Youth Choir is seeking a highly-skilled, enthusiastic person to undertake the role of Conductor of Australia Voices and the Spectra Ensemble from 28 August 2018 until 9 July 2019 to cover an absence of the current Conductor.

Note: this role can be undertaken in conjunction with the role of **Artistic Director** which is also available for the same time period. If you wish to apply for both roles, you need only submit one application.

Remuneration: \$9,000 (plus payments for some performances)

WVYC conductors are paid as independent contractors.

About Woden Valley Youth Choir

Woden Valley Youth Choir is Canberra's best choir for young people and has been singing since 1969.

Woden Valley Youth Choir (WVYC) believes every young person is a musician and that singing is a way to bring people together. The Choir has been singing for nearly 50 years and has always been committed to training strong musicians, nurturing their growth as caring individuals and empowering them to develop a joy of music that lasts a lifetime.

The Choir is also dedicated to promoting and commissioning new Australian works and to providing its young singers with the opportunities to perform at significant events and alongside renowned artists.

We are a not-for-profit organisation and, as such, the Choir belongs not only to the choristers, but also to their parents, families, friends, staff and volunteers. It relies on the talents of the entire community, as it is together that we are able to create magic with music. We speak of choristers past, present, and future being at the heart of what we do.

WVYC regularly rehearses each Tuesday from 4:30 until 8:30 during school terms.

WVYC teaches 6 ensembles:

- Nova Voices (for ages 5 to 9)
- Borealis Voices (for ages 8 to 13)
- **Australis Voices** (for ages 11 to 25)
- Centauri Voices (for young men with transitioning voices)
- Aurora Vocal Ensemble (for selected choristers aged 6 to 13)
- **Spectra Vocal Ensemble** (for selected choristers aged 12 to 25)

POSITION DESCRIPTION

The Conductor is responsible for conducting Australis Voices (a treble choir of approximately 30 choristers) and Spectra Vocal Ensemble (approximately 12 choristers selected from Australis). The Conductor reports to the Artistic Director.

Responsibilities include:

- Organise and attend all Australis and Spectra rehearsals
- Encourage choristers to develop strong theory, musicianship and sight-reading skills
- Encourage choristers in the development of movement (choreography) while singing
- Conduct all concerts by Australis and Spectra (including Carols by Candlelight)
- Conduct/head the Australis/Spectra annual camp (held first weekend in February)
- Use own networks to recruit new choristers
- Work with the Artistic Director to select music of suitable genres, standard and quality for the choir/s
- Identify and arrange performance opportunities for Australis and Spectra
- Prepare a schedule of rehearsals appropriate for each performance
- Attend all weekly rehearsals and scheduled performances as necessary
- Assist the Artistic Director to source orchestral players and vocal soloists as required
- Undertake relevant choir administration tasks as required
- Attendance at meetings of the Management Committee as required
- Collaborate in the preparation of grant submissions as required.

Time Requirements

Australis rehearses from 6pm until 8pm on Tuesday evenings at Charles Weston Primary School, Coombs. Spectra rehearses from 8.10pm until 8.30pm at the same venue. Preparation for each rehearsal is to take place outside of rehearsals and can be flexible to meet the Conductor's needs.

SELECTION CRITERIA

- Knowledge of, and passion for, choral music, across a variety of genres and periods
- Appropriate tertiary qualifications in music
- Experience in choral conducting of youth/children's choirs
- Experience in teaching young people especially in the areas of musicianship, music theory and sight-singing
- Experience in programming for choral concerts across a variety of genres
- Ability and skills to encourage choir members to develop their musical and vocal ability
- Well-developed communication and interpersonal skills
- Ability to foster a friendly and cooperative spirit within the choir, which seeks to be a "choral community" as much as a community choir
- Ability to work collaboratively with all other music staff members and the volunteer Management Committee
- Excellent presentation
- Must possess a current Working With Vulnerable People card
- Being Kodály trained is preferred.

HOW TO APPLY

Please submit a cover letter which explains your suitability for the role and responses to the selection criteria (2 pages max) **by 18 June 2018** to wvyc.president@gmail.com. Please attach a current CV and the name of at least one referee.