



Vacancy: Music Director

Start Date: September 2012

Glória, Dublin's Lesbian and Gay Choir, was founded in October 1995. We are a SATB choir and currently have 48 singing members balanced across each section. We are currently seeking to appoint a Musical Director with a start date of September 2012.

Role

The Musical Director is the artistic director and conductor of the choir. The role is critical to ensuring the choir's continued high performance standards and the ongoing musical development of its members.

The successful candidate must be comfortable to support and adopt the ethos of the choir.

Duties and Responsibilities

- Determine and develop repertoire, taking into account musical suggestions and requests made by choir members.
- Conduct the choir at performances
- Lead and inspire the members towards the highest musical standards
- Devise and run practical and timely rehearsal schedules.
- Together with the committee, programme and plan all major performances, including selection of guest artists, hiring of musical accompanists and groups.
- Advise the choir and committee on the feasibility of each performance, taking into account the existing calendar, balance of parts and suitability of venue
- Together with the internal event manager prepare for all major performances including technical liaison and staging issues.
- Research music, orchestrations and programming including commissioning new works as required.
- Conduct auditions from the waiting list as required.
- Maintain and improve the musical skills of members, identifying needs for further training and development.
- Encourage and foster the creativity of members.
- Prepare a report for the Choir's Annual General meeting
- Prepare for and attend committee, strategy and planning meetings as required.
- Undertake any additional duties as reasonably requested by the committee or chairperson.

Skills and Abilities - Essential

- Strong Musicianship
- Proven record in conducting
- Background in choral singing
- Excellent communication skills
- Strong teaching/coaching skills
- Ability to give musical leadership to a large and diverse choir
- Clear artistic vision
- Organisation and planning skills

Desirable

- Music qualification
- Commitment to the promotion of equality and inclusion

Personal Qualities

We are seeking somebody who is an excellent communicator, passionate about choral singing and who can inspire members to learn and perform. Ideally the person should also inject a sense of fun into rehearsals. The person should be a good ambassador for the choir and also be discreet and supportive when dealing with members.

Rehearsal Schedule

There is a weekly two-hour rehearsal on a Tuesday evening (7.30-9.30) in the City Centre and a three and a half hour Sunday Workshop once a month in Rathmines. Additional rehearsals can be scheduled at the discretion of the musical director. The choir season runs from mid-September to late June.

Payment and Duration of Appointment

A stipendiary payment is made to the Musical Director for all rehearsals and performances as negotiated with the committee. The appointment is being made on a self-employment basis. The appointee would be expected to ensure that their own tax affairs are in order.

Suitable candidates should send their CV along with a covering letter to:

Pauline Tracey
Gloria
c/o OutHouse
105 Capel Street
Dublin 1.

Applications will also be accepted by email to: info@gloria.ie

Closing date for application is Friday 2nd March 2012



Information and Background

Background

Gloria was established in 1995 to allow lesbians and gay men to sing together and to promote a positive image of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community in Ireland. The choir has grown and become highly successful both within the LGBT and choral communities. Gloria is an association governed by constitution and is also a registered charity. Further details of the choir's history and artistic catalogue are available from our website www.gloria.ie and our YouTube channel.

Structure

A committee, comprising a chairperson, treasurer and a representative from each section is elected annually at the AGM to manage the all activities of the choir on behalf of members. There are singing members and non singing members.

Main Objective

To advance education in the arts, and particularly in the appreciation of choral music by the presentation of public concerts.

Subsidiary Objectives

- To perform as a choir at concerts and other events in Ireland and abroad, for the enjoyment and education of the participants and audiences
- To develop the musical skills of choir members individually and collectively
- To educate and entertain the public by presenting a positive image of the gay and lesbian community
- To promote the choir within the lesbian and gay community, locally, nationally and internationally
- To organise concerts and musical performances for the lesbian and gay community and the general public and to provide a social outlet for members
- To raise money for organisations with charitable objectives primarily within the lesbian and gay community

- To provide an opportunity for members of the lesbian and gay community who want to sing together

Glória has performed extensively throughout Ireland in Dublin, Belfast, Carlingford, Castlebar, Cork, Drogheda, Dun Laoghaire, Galway, Limerick, New Ross, Sligo, Waterford and Westport. We are looking forward to adding to this list in the future..

Internationally the choir has travelled to perform in London on a couple of occasions, and in connection with the GALA Choruses Festivals we have been to Montréal in Canada and twice to the US; to Boston, Miami and San José.

In Dublin we have performed in the National Concert Hall, Christchurch Cathedral, St. Patrick's Cathedral and The Point, (now the O2 Arena). We have performed in the Waterfront in Belfast and in the Royal Festival Hall in London. We have entertained in pubs, churches, community centres and schools. We have performed at discos, at railway stations and shopping centres, in parks and on the street.

More than once we have been able to sing in wonderful venues such as Dublin City Hall and the National Gallery. .

- Singing with the Garda Male Voice Choir and the Garda Band in the NCH in 2002, as one of the first LGBT choirs ever to sing with their national police force.
- Taking part in the Holocaust Memorial in Dublin's Mansion House in 2007, singing a piece composed by our Musical Director Michael Finlay.
- Performing at the Nokia Fashion Awards in 2007, (some of us finding the blue glitter from our striking make-up for days afterwards in the most peculiar places!).
- Singing at the Bingham Cup in the Helix in 2008.
- Giving a concert during the Dundalk Outcomer's Christmas Market in 2010, an event we received a GALAS nomination for.
- Ending 2010 on an amazing high with our Christmas concert in a packed St. Patrick's Cathedral.

Now and again Glória participates in choral competitions. As early as 2000 we won first prize at the Navan Choral Festival – prize; a jar of honey each – and we repeated this feat in 2002.

We won again at the Cork International Choral Festival and at the New Ross AIMS Choral Festival in 2004. This led us to being invited back to both festivals in 2005 to give special performances. In Cork we gave our own concert, and in New Ross we world premiered a new Irish piece.

In 2005 Glória won the Gerry Ryan "Find José a Choir" competition. A fantastic response by national text vote led to us being selected from over 30 choirs throughout the country to sing with José Carreras at the Point Theatre. The reaction was very positive: "their youthful, well disciplined sound proved ideal for their unaccompanied encore She Moved Through the Fair. Under their own director Liz Powell, they turned this to a moment of chilly poignancy whose contrast with Carreras's outpourings couldn't have been starker." Irish Times, 2 May 2005.

The Friday before that concert we performed on the Late Late Show. We have been seen on TV and heard on radio on many other occasions too, including as part of the Lyric FM Choirs for Christmas competition, which we haven't won, not yet anyway!

What we have won, however, is the 2011 GALAS Irish Artists/Entertainers of the Year. The overwhelming support from our friends, families and fabulous fans thrilled and astounded us.

Raising our voices for a good cause

Glória is a charity, but we also sing and raise money for other charities. These have included BeLonG To, GCN Forever, One in Four, and Temple Street Hospital, among many.

In 2009 we took part in the 24-hour long carol-athon "Sing for Simon" in Grafton Street, (where we were quite fortunate, getting a mid-afternoon slot). In 2010 we were invited by Gay Bray to hold a concert in Dun Laoghaire where the proceeds went towards the restoration and renovation of the Oscar Wilde panel at the DART station, and at the very end of that year we carolled for commuters in Heuston Station on behalf of St. Patrick's Hospital Foundation. More recently we gave a concert for the volunteers at Our Lady's Hospice, Harold's Cross, and sang at a World AIDS Day Christmas Concert in Christchurch Cathedral for the Bone Marrow for Leukemia Trust and The GUIDE Clinic. We were also delighted to have been invited by Pobal to sing at an OECD conference in Dublin Castle. We sang Christmas carols in aid of St Patrick's Hospital Foundation and the Peter McVerry Trust. We finished off 2011 in style with a government minister no less in attendance at St Patrick's Cathedral.

Looking further into the future we are very excited about Dublin being the chosen city to host the European LGBT choral festival "Various Voices" in 2014, bringing thousands of singers together to what promises to be a fantastic event.