

# LONDON SYMPHONY CHORUS - CHORUS DIRECTOR

## Application pack

This includes:

1. Background information on the London Symphony Chorus
2. Job description
3. Selection criteria
4. London Symphony Chorus biography

## How to apply

To apply **email a CV and covering letter** to [chorusdirector.applications@lsc.org.uk](mailto:chorusdirector.applications@lsc.org.uk). The covering letter should explain how you meet the requirements in the selection criteria and your availability to take a rehearsal – see below for more details.

We actively welcome applications from people of all backgrounds. If you require a conversation in confidence regarding your application and any accessibility requirements please contact [chorusdirector.applications@lsc.org.uk](mailto:chorusdirector.applications@lsc.org.uk)

**The closing date for applications is 5pm GMT on Monday 19 December.**

## What happens next?

Applicants who go forward to stage two of the recruitment process will be invited for interview and taking a rehearsal with the Chorus. We anticipate that the interviews will be on 28-30 January 2023.

In addition to the interview, we will ask shortlisted candidates to take a rehearsal of Schubert's Mass No. 5 in A-flat major (Bärenreiter second edition BA 5623-90). Our regular rehearsals take place 6.30-9pm in central London on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

**In your application, please indicate which of the following evenings you can/cannot attend: 17/24/31 Jan 2023.**

## 1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The London Symphony Chorus (LSC) is an internationally recognised amateur symphonic chorus based in London it performs across the UK and tours internationally.

The chorus performs with its regular orchestral partner, the London Symphony Orchestra, and also other national and international ensembles. Recently, the chorus has performed with Sir Simon Rattle, Sir Antonio Pappano, Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Sir Mark Elder and Michael Tilson Thomas.

We plan to appoint a new Chorus Director to begin working with us ideally for the beginning of the Autumn Concert Season 2023 following the retirement of the current Chorus Director, Simon Halsey.

The chorus director will play a leading role in determining the LSC's musical and strategic direction, in consultation with the LSC's governing Council and the ensembles and conductors with which the LSC works. The chorus director will also oversee and manage the LSC's musical team of associate conductors, vocal coaches and accompanists.

Other than the core symphonic chorus repertoire, the LSC performs contemporary music, including new commissions, and is keen to diversify its repertoire further.

### ***Line management***

The Chorus Director reports to the Chair of the London Symphony Chorus. The Chair is responsible for ensuring that the role holder fulfils the responsibilities of the role in line with expectations. The Chorus Director has line management responsibility for members of the professional music team including Assistant Chorus Directors, Pianists and the Vocal Coaches.

### ***Key stakeholders***

The Chorus maintains a close relationship with the London Symphony Orchestra (LSO). The Chorus Director will work closely with the orchestra's Chief Conductor (currently Sir Simon Rattle and, from 2024 Sir Antonio Pappano) to fulfil key areas of responsibility. The Chorus Director will have occasional contact with the LSO's Managing Director (currently Kathryn McDowell), though the Managing Director's primary contact with the LSC is via the LSC's Chair.

In addition, the Chorus Director will have contact and work with promoters, orchestras, choirs (including youth choirs) and conductors as part of fulfilling their responsibilities.

The London Symphony Chorus is run by a Council of nine chorus members, elected by the membership. Council members (also known as Voice Reps) elect one of their number as Chair and are directors of the LSC for the duration of their tenure, working together to provide strategic leadership and, in their role as voice reps, to manage their sections on a day-to-day basis.

The Chorus Director reports to Council via the Chair. The Chorus Director also works closely with Council members in their role as voice reps to ensure a consistently high standard of performance.

Other volunteers within the Chorus fulfil a number of officer and secretary roles. The Chorus Director will work closely with some of these role holders including the Auditions Secretary and Concerts Manager.

## 2. JOB DESCRIPTION

### **Purpose**

The purpose of the role of Chorus Director of the London Symphony Chorus is to secure and maintain the Chorus's reputation as one of London's world-class symphonic choruses, working closely with the London Symphony Orchestra and attracting regular opportunities to perform and record with the world's leading orchestras and conductors.

### **Key areas of accountability**

- To secure the LSC's musical reputation with key stakeholders
- To attract and secure a diverse programme of concerts, attracting opportunities; agreeing the programme for the season with Council; and ensuring the preparation and implementation of detailed, practical rehearsal plans
- To improve performance standards by shaping, agreeing and implementing effective strategies for recruiting / auditioning, retaining / re-auditioning and developing the LSC's membership
- To foster a climate and culture that increases the diversity of the membership, leading by example,
- Leadership of the professional music team to enable strong and confident performance standards overseeing relationships between members of the Chorus's professional music team and third-party professionals, including orchestras conductors and other musicians. The professional music team includes associate conductors, vocal coaches and accompanists
- To ensure that strategies for recruiting, retaining and developing the LSC's membership are implemented effectively and consistently, by personal leadership and by the recruitment, mentorship and leadership of a diverse, inclusive and high-performing professional music team
- The Chorus Director will be expected to support and implement the policies and practices of the Chorus across all key areas of accountability

### 3. SELECTION CRITERIA

The following essential criteria will be used to shortlist:

	<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Evidence</b>
1	<b>Musical background</b>	Credible musical background, including choral and other experience.
2	<b>Professional credibility</b>	Evidence of working at a professional level with musicians of national and international standing.
3	<b>Choral experience and leadership</b>	Evidence of choral experience, especially as the chorus director of a large choir. Evidence of developing the choral and musical ability of a choir. Developing diversity in a choir.
4	<b>Ability to manage complexity</b>	Evidence of managing complex choral projects and/or musical organisations and musicians.
5	<b>Ability to manage the work of a chorus</b>	Evidence of managing the work of a chorus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic: planning a season and future seasons</li> <li>• Operational: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ planning rehearsal schedules)</li> <li>○ taking rehearsals</li> <li>○ hearing auditions</li> <li>○ managing a musical team (associate conductors, vocal coaches and accompanists).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
6	<b>Ability to manage self</b>	Managing the work of a chorus director in the context of a wider work portfolio.

#### 4. LSC BIOGRAPHY

<b>President:</b>	Sir Simon Rattle OM CBE
<b>Vice President:</b>	Michael Tilson Thomas
<b>Patrons:</b>	Sir Simon Russell Beale CBE Howard Goodall CBE
<b>Chorus Director:</b>	Simon Halsey CBE
<b>Associate Directors:</b>	Lucy Hollins, David Lawrence Barbara Hoefling and Mariana Rosas
<b>Chorus Accompanist:</b>	Benjamin Frost
<b>Chair:</b>	Alice Jones
<b>LSO Choral Projects Manager:</b>	Sumita Menon
<b>Vocal coaches:</b>	Norbert Meyn, Anita Morrison, Rebecca Outram and Robert Rice

The London Symphony Chorus (LSC) was formed in 1966 to complement the work of the London Symphony Orchestra (LSO) and is recognised internationally for its performances and recordings. It is committed to excellence, diversity, equity and inclusion, and the development of its members. It engages actively in the musical life of London, its home, performs in the UK and has toured in Europe, the United States, Australia, Israel and South-East Asia.

The partnership between the LSC and LSO was strengthened in 2012 with the appointment of Simon Halsey CBE as chorus director. Previous chorus directors include Arthur Oldham OBE, Richard Hickox CBE and Stephen Westrop.

The LSC performs with national and international orchestras, including the LSO, the Berlin Philharmonic, Vienna Philharmonic, Leipzig Gewandhaus, Los Angeles Philharmonic and New York Philharmonic and has worked regularly with a roster of notable conductors, including Sir Simon Rattle OM CBE, Sir Colin Davis CH CBE, Sir Antonio Pappano, Sir Mark Elder CH CBE, André Previn KBE, Richard Hickox CBE, Michael Tilson Thomas, Valery Gergiev, Yannick Nézet-Séguin and Gianandrea Noseda.

The partnership between the LSC and LSO, particularly under Richard Hickox in the 1980s and 1990s, and later with Sir Colin Davis, led to its large catalogue of recordings which has won nine awards, including five Grammys. Gramophone included the recordings of Berlioz's *The Damnation of Faust* and *Romeo and Juliet* on LSO Live with Sir Colin Davis as two of the top ten Berlioz recordings. Recent LSO Live recordings with the LSC include Bernstein's *Wonderful Town*, Berlioz's *The Damnation of Faust* and Beethoven's *Christ on the Mount of Olives*, all with Sir Simon Rattle.

In early 2020 the LSC undertook a major European tour of Beethoven, including *Christ on the Mount of Olives*, with the LSO and Sir Simon Rattle. During the 2020 and 2021 Covid-19 pandemics the LSC continued to rehearse online and perform live, when possible. During that time performances included the world premieres of Errollyn Wallen's *After Winter* with Simon Halsey at the Spitalfields Festival in July 2021, *Beethoven's Symphony No 9* with the

Orchestre Philharmonique in Monte-Carlo and Aix-en-Provence with Kazuki Yamada, Julian Anderson's *Exiles* (an LSC co-commission), Haydn's *The Creation* with Sir Simon Rattle, and Dallapiccola's *Il Prigioniero* with Sir Antonio Pappano.

Again, during Covid-19 pandemics the LSC premiered Howard Goodall's *Never to Forget*, its own commission, in memory of health and social care workers who died from Covid-19 while caring for others. An initial eight-minute version was recorded online by the LSC with LSO players and released on youtube.com. The Ballet Rambert choreographed and recorded dance to this, and then performed the completed work with the LSC at a national Remember Me and Never to Forget Memorial Concert at St Paul's Cathedral, London in March 2022.

Other recent premieres by the LSC include Sir James Macmillan's *St John Passion*, Sir Peter Maxwell Davies' *Symphony no.10* and *The Hogboon* and Jonathan Dove's *The Passing of the Year*.

Works in the 2022-2023 season include Mahler's *Symphony no. 2*, Berlioz's *The Damnation of Faust*, Brahms's *Ein Deutsches Requiem*, Janáček's *Káťa Kabanová*, Shostakovich's *Symphony no. 13*, Schubert's *Mass no. 5*, Szymanowski's *Stabat Mater*, Schumann's *Das Paradies*, Beethoven's *Symphony no. 9*, Handel's *Messiah* and Ravel's *Daphnis and Chloé*.