

**Calling all singers!**  
**Associate Soloist with *Escafeld Chorale***  
*Supported by a generous bequest from Gilly Surr*  
**Invitation to apply**

**Applications open: Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

**Closing date: 5.00pm on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

Would you like some financial support for your musical development and solo roles with *Escafeld Chorale*, an experienced Sheffield choir, and its accomplished musical director? Read on....

**What are we looking for?**

A young singer who will:

- perform to a high standard
- come with a recommendation from Sheffield University Music Department or a reputable singing teacher
- enjoy guaranteed solo roles in three public concert programmes
- be able to benefit from individual support from our Musical Director
- have clear ideas about how our support will help their musical development
- support the Chorale in agreed ways, enthusiastically and appropriately
- provide evidence of reliability and loyalty
- have practical ideas about, and undertake, an ambassadorial role for the Chorale
- attend an agreed number of rehearsals

**What are we offering the successful applicant?**

- Working experience with a progressive mixed-voice choir of up to 70 voices
- An ongoing process of support, opportunity and guidance over a twelve-month period
- Financial support of £400 for activities agreed with Escafeld's committee
- Collaboration with our Musical Director in the choice of music from Sept 2022 to August 2023
- Opportunities to sing to new audiences in various venues in the city and region
- A varied and interesting range of music, which may include pieces from 16th-century to present-day composers

Please email a cv and formal letter of application to Carla Rohde at [c.c.rohde@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:c.c.rohde@sheffield.ac.uk) by 5.00pm on Friday March 10<sup>th</sup>

Please address the details listed above and include the names and contact details of two referees. We will let you know venue, date and time of audition as soon as possible.

Interviews and auditions will be held in mid-March (details tbc). The Musical Director, George Parsons, will arrange to meet the successful applicant soon after.

For information, or to talk about your application, please contact our chairperson Sarah Hindmarsh on [slhindmarsh@outlook.com](mailto:slhindmarsh@outlook.com). Alternatively, speak first to Dr Simon Keegan-Phipps in the University of Sheffield Music Department.

Visit our website at <https://www.escafeldchorale.org.uk/> or turn to the next page for more information about Escafeld Chorale.

## Information about Escafeld Chorale

Escafeld Chorale began life in 1969 as the Fossdale Singers, under music teacher Ron Law. We've steadily grown to our present size of around 60 singers, with members drawn from the whole Sheffield area and covering a wide age range. From 1983 to 2001 Francis Wells (conductor of Bolsterstone Male Voice Choir) wielded the baton, developing the choir to tackle a wide range of choral music, from Palestrina, Byrd and Vivaldi, through Mozart, Haydn and Handel to Poulenc, Vaughan Williams and Britten. From 2001 to 2013, Peter Dutton continued to expand our repertoire, with works as varied as Brahms's *Ein Deutsches Requiem*, Haydn's *Creation*, Britten's *St Nicolas*, Ramirez's *Misa Criolla*, Goodall's *Eternal Light* and Charpentier's *Te Deum*. Ian Roberts continued this tradition to 2016, introducing works by composers such as Langlais, Parry and Eric Whitacre, before handing over the baton to Nigel Russell. George Parsons took on the role in September 2022, returning to Escafeld (having previously worked with us as accompanist).

Despite increasing in size, the choir retains a friendly atmosphere and new members are made very welcome. We don't ask them to audition or demonstrate sight-reading ability, but we do aim for high standards and encourage members to work hard during rehearsals and practise between them. We are keen to encourage and advance younger singers and musicians with our Associate Soloist scheme and by actively seeking younger singers for our choir and ensembles of younger instrumentalists for our concerts.

Over recent years (pre-Covid) we have performed Elgar's *The Music Makers*, Schubert's *Mass in G Major*, Rossini's *Petite Messe Solonnelle*, Rutter's *Requiem* and, in 2018, Bach's *St Matthew Passion* in association with English Touring Opera. In 2019 we celebrated our 50th anniversary season by revisiting some of our favourite music.

Our 2022–23 Associate Soloist is Elise Pelo, final-year student in the Music Department. Recent Associate Soloists have included former students Sarah Leffler, Timothy Peters and Keren Hadas. Our Associate Soloists have generally gone on to pursue musical careers. Matthew Palmer, who has since participated in the Guildhall Opera Course, has been heard in many opera and oratorio roles around the UK and felt that the support he gained through the Associate Soloist scheme in his last year of university (2010–11) laid the foundation for further study and development, while Laura Lister (2013–14) found the experience of working with a friendly and welcoming choir an absolute pleasure.

Chair: Sarah Hindmarsh [slhindmarsh@outlook.com](mailto:slhindmarsh@outlook.com)

Music Director: George Parsons

Secretary: Alison Allen-Booth [alisonallenbooth@googlemail.com](mailto:alisonallenbooth@googlemail.com)

*The Escafeld Chorale Associate Soloist Scheme is supported by a generous bequest from former choir member Gilly Surr.*

[www.escafeldchorale.org.uk](http://www.escafeldchorale.org.uk)

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*Escafeld Chorale*

Making fine music in and around Sheffield in a friendly, relaxed atmosphere