

Calling all singers!
Associate Soloist with *Escafeld Chorale*
Invitation to apply from Monday 5 February 2024
Closing date: 5.00pm on Friday 1 March 2023

Would you like some financial support for your musical development and an opportunity to sing solo roles with an experienced local choir, and its accomplished music director? The 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
- be able to benefit from individual support from our Music Director
- have clear ideas about how our support will help their musical development
- undertake an ambassadorial role for the Chorale, including by performing to a high standard and demonstrating a reliable and enthusiastic attitude
- attend an agreed number of rehearsals (as a guide, soloists often attend around 6 rehearsals per term). We rehearse on Tuesday evenings in term time, in Sheffield

What are we offering the successful applicant?

- The chance to enjoy guaranteed solo roles in three public concert programmes
- 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 Music Director in the choice of music from Sept 2024 to August 2025
- 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 by 5.00pm on Friday 1 March 2024

Please address the details listed above and include the names and contact details of two referees.

Interviews and auditions will be held in mid-March. We will let you know venue, date and time of audition as soon as possible.

The Music 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. Alternatively, speak first to Dr Simon Keegan-Phipps in the University of Sheffield Music Department.

Visit our website or turn to the next page for more information about Escafeld Chorale.

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

Some background 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 60–70 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 and then to current MD George Parsons, himself a former student of the TUOS Music Department

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.

We have recently 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 and inviting former Associate Soloists to join us for two concerts. In 2023 our Easter concert included Britten's *Rejoice in the Lamb* and Parts 2 and 3 of Handel's *Messiah*.

Our most recent Associate Soloist is Elise Pelo, graduate of the Music Department. Previous Associate Soloists have included former students Timothy Peters and Keren Hadas. Our Associate Soloists have generally gone on to pursue musical careers. Matthew Palmer (2010–11), 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 laid the foundation for further study and development. Lindsey James (2015–16) teaches music at the North London School while maintain as successful singing career as a graduate of the Genesis Sixteen programme.

Chair: Sarah Hindmarsh slhindmarsh@outlook.com

Music Director: George Parsons

Secretary: Alison Allen-Booth alisonallenbooth@gmail.com

The Escafeld Chorale Associate Soloist Scheme has previously been supported by a generous bequest from former choir member Gilly Surr.

www.escafeldchorale.org.uk

Registered Charity no. 1110334.