



# Choral Artistic Director & Conductor

## Concord Chamber Singers

**Location:** Lehigh Valley, PA

**Job Type:** Part-Time, Contract

**Application Deadline:** December 31, 2020

**Concord Chamber Singers (CCS)** is seeking a highly qualified applicant to serve as Artistic Director, starting in the Fall of 2021. Contract will begin in Spring/Summer 2021, with rehearsals starting in the Fall of 2021.

**The mission of CCS** is to foster excellent singing and impactful storytelling while engaging communities in the vibrancy of the choral art. Our mission is driven by the vision set forth by the CCS board and its members through artistic excellence, membership, outreach, financial and organizational efforts. CCS is a multigenerational choral group of approximately 45 accomplished male and female vocalists.

## History:

**Concord Chamber Singers** has been delighting audiences for more than 50 years throughout the Lehigh Valley, the United States, and Europe with a repertoire of live music, including classic and contemporary works. Dr. Jennifer Kelly took over leadership of CCS in 2012 when the group's founder, Dr. Blaine Shover, retired. Under her direction, the chorus has continued to entertain audiences with a wide variety of music, such as "An Evening with the Mendelssohns"; Carol Barnett's *The World Beloved: A Bluegrass Mass*; John Rutter's *Magnificat* and *Mass of the Children*; Ola Gjeilo's *Sunrise Mass*; Emma Lou Diemer's *Mass*; and as a guest chorus for "Video Games Live!" with the Allentown Symphony. In recent years, CCS has performed world premieres by Libby Larsen, Hilary Tann and Gabriela Lena Frank.

A mission-driven organization, CCS highlights our community with annual performances for Kirkland Village and the Lehigh University Baccalaureate; a tribute to our Lehigh Valley veterans in a concert featuring music from the World War II era; has performed at Musikfest; and opens various Iron Pigs games with the National Anthem. CCS continues to support our community by hiring local musicians and caterers, partnering with local businesses, and offering tickets for local fundraisers. Over the years, we have collaborated with numerous ensembles, including the Allentown Symphony and Pops Orchestras, The Allentown Band, Philadelphia Brass, Chiara String Quartet, Dave Roper Trio, Louie Setzer and the Appalachian Mountain Boys, Lafayette College Choirs, and Lehigh University's Choral Union. Most recently, Emmet Cahill of Celtic Thunder invited CCS to sing with him during two concerts in Bethlehem, Pa.

## Primary Responsibilities:

- Select repertoire for musical programs that is challenging, creative and of interest to singers and the community,
- Schedule concert dates and assist in securing appropriate venues.

- Select all artistic personnel (soloists, instrumentalists and guest artists) with board approval, collaborating with local arts organizations
- Preparing scores, conducting and providing direction during rehearsals and concerts to the singers, accompanists, instrumentalists and guest artists as needed.
- Serve as a member of the Board of Directors and participate in the development and implementation of a strategic plan.
- Work with the Board of Directors to carry out other objectives as assigned (example; writing program notes, newsletter articles or other marketing needs)
- Provide monthly reports to the Board of Directors regarding concerts, singers, guest artist status and other projects
- Help to develop a comprehensive artistic plan and budget that reflects projected expenses for the fiscal year; with approval from the Board of Directors
- Work to negotiate contracts with guest artists and instrumentalists
- Recruit new, qualified members
- Conduct auditions annually for new singers or at other times as needed
- Represent CCS to the public by attending meetings with the board members, making radio, TV and other public appearances and attending community functions
- Participate in fundraising by cultivating relationships with donors and providing requested information for grants
- Foster relationships and collaborations with arts peers in the community

## **Qualifications:**

### **Required:**

- Bachelor's Degree, preferably in music
- Prior conducting experience, preferably in the choral field
- Varied musical background with experience in both sacred and secular music
- Understanding of vocal technique and diction
- Creativity, strong leadership and interpersonal skills

### **Preferred:**

- Advanced degree in music or choral conducting
- Previous experience as an Artistic Director of a choral ensemble
- Experience with non-profit musical organizations
- Knowledge in marketing and fundraising
- Access to a dedicated rehearsal space and library of music

\*Please note that we are also looking for a new piano accompanist. You are not required to provide your own, however, any information you have about an accompanist you would like to use or work with would be greatly appreciated.

\*Graduate students are highly encouraged to apply.

**Salary:**

Compensation is negotiable and commensurate with experience.

**Application Procedures:**

Qualified applicants should submit the following materials for consideration:

- Personal letter of interest
- Professional resume with three professional references
- Links to video footage conducting a rehearsal *and* performance
- Salary requirements

\*Selected applicants may be asked to conduct a mock rehearsal or provide a sample concert list as part of the interview process

Application materials can be sent via email to [ccsdirectorsearch@gmail.com](mailto:ccsdirectorsearch@gmail.com). Please format the subject line as follows: "Artistic Director Applicant-(Candidate's Name)."

For more information on Concord Chamber Singers, please go to our website at [www.ccsingers.org](http://www.ccsingers.org).

Concord Chambers Singers does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, gender expression, age, national origin, ethnicity, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status in any of its activities or operations.