

PART-TIME CHOIR DIRECTOR JOB IN BEAUTIFUL ASHLAND OREGON

Are you artistically ambitious AND committed to nurturing community? Can you lead effectively in a team environment? Are you up for a creative adventure? If you're ready to bring big time passion to a part-time position, Rogue World Music invites you to apply for the role of Musical Director of our adult choral ensemble!

The choir, known as the Rogue World Ensemble, is an auditioned group of 45 men and women with a wide range of musical backgrounds and abilities. We rehearse weekly September through May and perform full concerts twice a year, sometimes in collaboration with other arts & culture organizations, plus shorter appearances at community celebrations and events. Our repertoire draws from the folk music and singing traditions of many lands. We like to learn directly from teachers with deep knowledge of specific traditions when we can. We perform a cappella or accompanied by instrumentalists with expertise in world music, and sing from memory, in original languages, incorporating dance steps and rhythmic movement where appropriate. Click [HERE](#) to view performance clips on our new YouTube Channel.

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFNSjN3riV3fjxMEMkWPcng?view_as=subscriber

CORE RESPONSIBILITIES

- Craft the artistic vision of performances in consultation with staff, board, and artistic collaborators.
- Work with staff to align Ensemble programming with our education and community participation programs.
- Select seasonal repertoire and prepare materials such as scores, worksheets, part-recordings, etc.
- Audition singers for the ensemble.
- Plan and lead weekly choir rehearsals September - May to master repertoire while increasing the choir's musical skills and expressive capacity.
- Select accompanists, plan, and direct instrumental rehearsals when needed.
- Draft program notes and song introductions.
- Direct the choir in performance - may involve traditional conducting gestures in front of the group, minimal cueing as a singer within the group, vocal call & response & other directing techniques.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

- 3 years experience directing an adult vocal group - world music experience a plus.
- Formal music/choral training - music education training a plus.
- Experience directing instrumental accompanists or ensembles, stage production experience a plus.
- Comfortable working without accompaniment and off the page, can teach vocally.
- Strong kinesthetic musicality and rhythmic skills, dance experience a plus.
- Cultural exposure through family, travel, language study, the arts, or other means.
- Team-oriented with excellent leadership and communication skills.
- Basic competence with audio files and formats, Google Drive and apps, and social media.
- A genuine commitment to building community and cultural awareness through world music.

DESIRED SKILLS & ABILITIES

You are a maestro of motivation, inspiring singers with varied assets and limitations to expand their capabilities and achieve their highest potential. You challenge with high expectations while supporting with guidance, training, and positive reinforcement. You lead by example with thorough preparation, embrace

your own learning journey with your singers, and delight in celebrating progress together. You are confident, energetic, humorous, humble, and kind.

You appreciate folk arts and enjoy broadening your musical perspective through exploring other cultural traditions. You honor the knowledge of cultural experts and value bringing their expertise to the choir. You're excited to pair choral singing with community causes. You're ready to add your ambition to a young arts organization with positive momentum as it expands to serve a regional population.

WHO WE ARE

Rogue World Music (www.rogueworldmusic.org) is a small non-profit arts organization based in Ashland Oregon with a mission to *build community and cultural awareness in the Rogue Valley through world music performance, education, and participation*. Our current programs include the Rogue World Ensemble - an adult performance choir, several after-school singing clubs for kids, performances and workshops by visiting artists, community sings & folkdances, and the annual Ashland World Music Festival. We're funded through program fees, ticket sales, individual & business contributions, and foundation & government grants. We're committed to maintaining a work environment free from discrimination or harassment of any kind.

WHAT WE OFFER

We expect to offer \$10,000 - \$15,000 per year to the Musical Director depending on qualifications, skills, and scope of duties negotiated. Outside of rehearsals and performances, the Musical Director works from his/her own office or studio according to his/her preferred schedule. The Musical Director is supported by section leaders, the Executive Director (who handles choir administration) and the Board President (who focuses on artistic and collaborative visioning). Several choir members contribute instrumental, dance, staging, visual art, specialized repertoire, and other skills to support the Musical Director.

The anticipated time commitment is approximately 10 hrs per week September - May plus sporadic hours during summer. There are opportunities to expand the scope of work through our children's after-school programs and/or our community participation programs. Depending on future funding, as the organization grows we anticipate converting the Musical Director position from a contract to a salaried position with benefits.

Ashland Oregon and the broader Rogue Valley offer an exceptional quality of life with a rare combination of natural and artistic amenities in a small-town setting.

HOW TO APPLY

Please email a resume and cover letter describing your typical rehearsal methods and overall choral philosophy to directorsearch@rogueworldmusic.org. If possible, include a link to a video or audio recording of an ensemble under your direction in your application. In your cover letter, please also address this question: *How can choral singing contribute to building community?*

Applications will be reviewed as they are received with initial interviews planned for April. The position will remain open until filled.