



Job Opening

Thank you for your interest in applying for the position of Artistic Director/Conductor with the Santa Barbara Master Chorale (Chorale). We are seeking someone who has a master's or doctoral degree in choral conducting or related field and who has had experience directing adult singers and conducting ensembles of professional musicians. Candidates must demonstrate the ability to select and interpret a wide range of concert choral literature, both traditional and contemporary.

The Chorale is an auditioned chorus currently numbering 35 to 50 singers. We rehearse on Tuesday evenings from 7:00 to 9:15 and perform four concerts a year – in the fall (November), during the December holidays, in the spring (late March/early April), and in early June. Traditionally, the fall and spring concerts have included chorus and orchestra. The December and June concerts generally use piano or organ as accompaniment. For a complete job description, please see the attached pages.

The position will begin in September 2025, with the successful candidate planning and implementing the concerts for the 2025-2026 season. Salary for a full season will range from \$25,000-\$35,000 depending on your experience and education.

If you wish to be considered for this position, please submit the required items listed in this packet and send it to:

Selection Panel
Santa Barbara Master Chorale
P.O. Box 30803
Santa Barbara, CA 93130

Deadline for applying is December 31, 2024.
Submittal requirements:

You may opt to fill out the application using MS Word and e-mail the file to sbmasterchorale@gmail.com and cc: beissers@becmail.net.

Please note that we will be asking our top two or three candidates to conduct a rehearsal with the SBMC singers. We appreciate your interest and your time, and we look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Nancy Beisser, President



About the Santa Barbara Master Chorale

The Santa Barbara Master Chorale was formed in 1984 (at that time known as the Oratoro Chorale), with the intent of performing major choral works with orchestra. Forty years later, the chorale remains dedicated to presenting creative programs that include the finest choral music from the 16th to 21st centuries. SBMC is a volunteer run 501(c) California nonprofit organization administered by a working board of directors. Income is derived from ticket sales, concert program advertising, grants from public and private foundations, and donations from generous individuals.

Programs from recent years have included such works as Haydn's *The Creation*, Brahms' *Ein Deutsches Requiem*, the Fauré *Requiem*, John Rutter's *Gloria and Requiem*, and Dan Forrest's *Requiem for the Living*, as well as works by Vivaldi, Bach, Beethoven, Mozart, Vaughan Williams, Mendelssohn, Bernstein, and Dvořák. We have also performed works by more contemporary composers including Jake Runestad, Elaine Hagenberg, Jacob Narverud, and Erik Esenvalds. (<http://www.sbmasterchorale.org/history.html>)

The chorus has presented concerts at several venues in the Santa Barbara Area: First Presbyterian Church, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church, Trinity Episcopal Church, and First United Methodist Church.

Mission:

- To provide the opportunity for adult singers from the community to learn and perform well a broad range of choral music.
- To foster public awareness among all segments of the Santa Barbara community regarding the large body of choral music by means of public performances.
- To stimulate interest in choral and classical music among students and thus encourage them to appreciate and perhaps participate in music on an avocational or professional basis throughout their lives.
- To encourage an appreciation by the public of the value of the performing arts as a vital component of a healthy, well-balanced community.



Job Description – Artistic Director/Conductor

1. Conduct all regular and special rehearsals.
2. Conduct all performances. However, guest conductors may be arranged for with advanced notice and in agreement with the SBMC Board of Directors (Board).
3. Develop an annual comprehensive artistic plan for the season, which will, in collaboration with the board, provide a basis of the annual budget. Work with the Board to provide a realistic cash-expenditure budget for each concert. The Board must approve any subsequent expenditure not contained in this budget.
4. Designate season themes and repertoire. Coordinate with the Board, in a timely manner, to arrange for acquisition of scores for performances.
5. Determine orchestration, staying within budget requirements, and coordinate with the Board to hire instrumentalists.
6. Select upcoming season concert and dress rehearsal dates by June 1 of each year. Select concert venues and coordinate with the Board for the use of these facilities.
7. Recruit new singers as appropriate and conduct auditions by appointment for new singers and soloists as needed but not less than annually. Hire singer soloists as needed for each concert.
8. Monitor and manage the balance of sections.
9. Notify the president of the Board at least one week in advance of an anticipated absence from rehearsals. Arrange for a substitute director and be responsible for compensation thereof, if any.
10. Attend Board meetings or notify president of necessary absences. Report on musical matters and work with the Board on publicity for each concert.
11. Collaborate with the Board in preparation of grant applications with information on planned projects, equipment needs, etc. A working budget based on a draft schedule prepared by the Director must be available for use in grant submissions on a timely basis, as required by the grantor.
12. Provide personal biographical information and photo for SBMC publications and Website plus other information (e.g., musical theme, programming, etc.), as appropriate.



Application Submittal Requirements

To be considered for this position, please provide the following:

- CV or resume (CV preferred)
- Three (3) professional references with current contact information (name, relationship, city, phone number, and email)
- Provide clearly identified and active web links to audio/video files that demonstrate your supportive teaching and/or ensemble experience (via personal website, YouTube, Dropbox, or a similar web-based application).
 - 10-15 minutes of rehearsal footage, AND...
 - 10-15 minutes of performance footage
- Briefly describe your experiences in conducting adult choirs and professional instrumentalists. Please include names of works performed.

In addition to the above and given the following season framework, please design your “dream” season for SBMC. What would you enjoy conducting and how would you set up each concert?

The annual Santa Barbara Master Chorale season normally includes the following each year:

1. A fall concert featuring one or more works for choir and orchestra. *(2 performances)*
2. A December holiday concert – Most often accompanied by piano or organ, possibly guest soloist(s) and/or instrumentalist(s). *(1 performance)*
3. A spring concert, featuring one or more works for choir with orchestra *(2 performances)*
4. A June concert of lighter music, e.g., show tunes, jazz favorites, opera choruses. *(1 or 2 performances)*



Selection Criteria

Key Responsibilities

- Demonstrate the ability to select and interpret a wide range of concert choral literature, both traditional and contemporary.
- Ability to establish creative and long-range musical objectives and identify and implement specific strategies and actions to achieve these objectives.
- Lead successful rehearsals based on prepared lesson plans and extensive score study.
- Demonstrate effective conducting gesture and teaching techniques reflective of the music.

Minimum Qualifications

- Master's degree in choral conducting or equivalent experience
- Experience leading adult community chorus
- Experience in conducting instrumental or orchestral ensembles for major works or with other chorus/instrumental components.

Preferred Qualifications

- Doctoral degree in choral conducting or related field.
- Evidence of successful teaching for choral and instrumental ensembles.
- Conducting abilities of the highest artistic standard, excellent choral pedagogical skills, and innovative vision.
- Demonstrated abilities in recruiting/retaining members.
- Solid understanding of vocal pedagogy.
- Excellent communication skills
- Bring positive charisma and cultivate intrinsic as well as extrinsic motivation within the chorus members.