



Thank you for your interest. We hope this document will help you understand the choir and the MD position.

### Summary:

- The choir is looking for a new passionate, fun and experienced musical director to start from July 2017.
- The new director will conduct rehearsals from 19:30-21:30 on Tuesday evenings during term time plus performances.
- The conductor should be motivated to inspire the choir in enjoyable community music-making, embracing our style of being relaxed and open to all.
- Although the choir includes many non-Christians, and sings secular songs at non-religious events etc, we are looking for a Christian music director as this is a core aspect of the choir.
- The director should be able to source and/or arrange affordable repertoire.
- They should be able to bring his or her own keyboard (or other instrument) to rehearsals to accompany or give notes.
- The fee is £50 per rehearsal and £60 per performance.

Auditions for shortlisted candidates, consisting of conducting the choir for part of a rehearsal and an informal discussion, will be held between the 19<sup>th</sup> of June and the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July.

### The Choir

Shirley Community Gospel Choir is a friendly and welcoming community choir open to all ages and abilities, with around 40 adult singers (men and women) at the moment, with this number growing every term.

#### Rehearsals/Location:

The choir holds weekly rehearsals alternating between St James the Great Church and Shirley Methodist Church in Solihull. Rehearsals are from 19:30-21:30 with a break half way.

#### Standard of the choir:

We require no previous experience, hold no auditions, and do not require members to read sheet music, although we do usually sing from sheet music as guides for those who can follow to whatever level they can. It is essential that the MD can be patient and motivating when working on the basics of vocal technique and pitching notes etc.

#### Repertoire:

The choir sings a range of repertoire including spirituals, rounds, gospel and Christian songs, and popular modern songs. We predominantly sing in 3-parts (SAB) and free arrangements are either sourced or created by the conductor at the moment. There is only a small budget for the occasional purchase of sheet music although help with photocopying and printing is available. Applicants should be able to source and/or create appropriate and enjoyable arrangements that are suitable for the abilities and vocal ranges of the choir.

### **Accompaniment:**

The previous conductors have brought their own keyboards to rehearsals to give notes and to direct from the keyboard as much or as little as they see fit. An accompanist is usually chosen by the conductor to play for a performance and the rehearsal or two before.

Therefore it would be helpful if applicants have good keyboard skills and can bring their own keyboard, although leading with percussion, guitar or anything else would potentially be welcome.

### **Performances:**

Performances are predominantly arranged by the committee either through us asking to perform at events or being asked to perform at events such as village fairs or charity events. We aim to have at least one or two short performance per term. Some performances may only be 20 minutes long with 4 or 5 short pieces, or longer for larger events.

### **Musical Director Requirements:**

- To encourage and inspire choir members with enjoyable music-making
- To build on the size and ability of the choir, developing technique, musicality and repertoire.
- To always strive to take the choir to the next level while maintaining the relaxed social environment and openness for all abilities. The director should make members laugh as well as concentrate.
- To source and arrange suitable arrangements for the choir, taking into account vocal ranges abilities and varied tastes.
- To strengthen the social community of the ensemble and to help welcome new members.
- Ideally to be a Christian - because the choir has a Christian ethos (although we are by no means restrictively religious).
- To accompany the choir with his or her own keyboard in rehearsals.
- To organise accompanists for performances and the rehearsal or two before performances. This may involve contacting suitable people, passing music to them to practise and informing them about logistics etc.
- To speak to the audience during performances (as much or as little as appropriate)
- To work with the small choir committee in the organisation of performances etc

Please check out our website so get more of a feel for the choir:

<http://www.shirleycommunitygospelchoir.co.uk>

If you would like to apply, please send a CV and cover letter to Martin at [martincwebb@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:martincwebb@yahoo.co.uk) explaining why you would like the role, an outline of your suitability and experience, and why you and the choir would be well suited to work together. You may also optionally send a video of your conducting and/or invite us to see you conduct in person at a rehearsal or performance. The deadline for applications the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May.

Thanks for your interest and we look forward to hearing from you.