

The logo for 'The HANDFUL' features a thin, curved line arching over the text. The word 'The' is in a smaller, italicized serif font, while 'HANDFUL' is in a larger, bold, serif font. The 'A' and 'N' are all caps, while 'D', 'F', and 'U' are lowercase.

The **HANDFUL**

Appointment of Musical Director - Information for Applicants

Job description

The principal duties of the Musical Director are as follows:

- To prepare members in the agreed repertoire at rehearsals (usually on Tuesdays in term time) and in any other planned activities, such as workshops.
- To conduct the choir and other performers in the choir's regular season of concerts.
- To ensure that the highest possible standards are achieved at both rehearsals and concerts, consistent with the choir's musical resources and budgets.
- To make him/herself available for the regular season of rehearsals and concerts.
- To submit detailed proposed programmes to the committee at least one year in advance.
- To plan rehearsals in advance and inform the choir at the end of each rehearsal of the schedule for the following rehearsal.
- To audition prospective choir members, to re-audition existing members every 2-3 years or as deemed necessary by the Musical Director, and to make recommendations to the committee in the light of such auditions.
- To make recommendations to the committee for the engagement of soloists and other performers for concerts, and to audition them if necessary.
- To advise, assist and work closely with the committee in the management of the choir's affairs, as an *ex officio* member of the committee.
- To attend committee meetings as required.

Person specification

The person we are seeking to appoint should:

- be an exceptional musician who can excite the choir with a wide and varied range of repertoire, and transmit his/her passion for the music to both choir and audience
- have experience of both choral and orchestral conducting
- demand and achieve high standards in both rehearsal and performance whilst being able to retain a light touch and a sense of humour
- have a creative approach to teaching and learning music, as well as the musical and personal skills to be able to motivate us to excel whilst enjoying our music-making
- be able to work within a budget
- have an interest in and knowledge of the choral repertoire from old to new and from small to larger scale, but with particular emphasis on a cappella choral music
- be keen to develop the choir and be willing to work with us on opportunities for new activities/events as they may arise

- have a willingness to communicate to the audience during concerts about the works being performed, particularly when those works are unfamiliar
- be approachable and want to engage with the members of this friendly choir

Ideally, they should also have:

- a background in choral singing with previous experience of training singers in vocal techniques
- contacts in the music world that will benefit the choir
- good keyboard skills, though the choir has an accompanist

Conditions of appointment

We are seeking to appoint a new Musical Director to take up the post in September 2021.

The Musical Director will be engaged by the choir on a self-employed basis, on a fixed-term contract with an initial trial period of 12 months.

A fee for each rehearsal will be paid monthly in arrears. A separate concert fee will be paid on the day of the concert. Initial fees will be negotiated at offer of appointment. Additional fees for activities outside the normal programme of rehearsals and concerts will be negotiated as these arise.

If the Musical Director is unable to attend a rehearsal for any unavoidable reason, he/she must inform the committee in advance and arrange a suitable replacement.

The appointment process

The closing date for applications is **Friday 30 April 2021**.

Shortlisted candidates will be informed by **Friday 21 May** and invited to attend an audition with the choir and an interview with the committee in Bath on the evening of **Tuesday 29 June or Tuesday 6 July**, with the possibility of a follow-up interview at a later date. In advance of the auditions, candidates will be asked to provide sample programmes for a season of three concerts. Requirements for the audition itself will be notified.

Applications

If you would like to apply for this post, please send the following by email to handfulsingers@gmail.com

- your CV
- a letter addressing your suitability for the post and, if remuneration is likely to be a deal-breaker for you, an idea of your expectations
- the names and contact details of two referees will be required for shortlisted candidates (NB: we may seek references prior to interview; please let us know if this is an issue)