

Rockingham Choral Society Searches for an Interim Music Director/Conductor Fall 2025.

The Rockingham Choral Society is seeking an interim Conductor / Artistic Director for the 2025-2026 season. This current Director has been granted a one year leave of absence. The position may be offered as a permanent position in January of 2026 if the current director elects not to return. RCS rehearses Tuesday evenings from 7-9PM at Exeter high school. There are two to three concerts per semester with two concert series per year in early December and early May.

About Us

The Rockingham Choral Society is an member led and operated group of over 100 auditioned singers drawing members from several communities in the New Hampshire seacoast area. Founded in 1957, the chorus allows singers the opportunity to enhance their musical knowledge and skill, and to enjoy the fellowship of others while preparing and performing challenging repertoire, ranging from the Renaissance to contemporary, including past performances of commissioned works.

As one of the largest and oldest groups in New England, the purpose of RCS is to foster the art of performing Choral Music of all periods. The society strives to present concerts of the highest quality to the community. Foremost, this group exists for the enjoyment and education of singers and audience. The Rockingham Choral Society has a widely diverse membership. It is a multi-generational, multi-cultural and multi interest group. All enjoy the spirit of singing and sharing their musical gift with others. This group is truly a valued cultural asset for members and audience alike. All soloists are chosen from the membership. The group has an experienced and active Board of members that take care of most organizational matters; the board meets 4-6 times per year. The director serves on the Board as a voting member. More may be found on our website at www.rockinghamchoral.org. Application materials may be submitted to director@rockinghamchoral.org Questions may be directed to the email or by calling Charles Smith at 603-988-9676

Salary is commensurate with experience with a range of 18k to 21K per year

Requirements / Qualifications

- Strong Conducting Skills: Ability to clearly and effectively communicate musical ideas to a chorus through gestures and cues.
- Vocal Technique: Ability to relate to the chorus an understanding of vocal production, breathing, posture, and vocal health.
- Choral Repertoire: Knowledge of a wide range of choral literature, including different styles, periods, and languages.
- Music Theory and Musicianship: Strong foundation in music theory, harmony, and music history.
- Rehearsal Techniques: Knowledge of effective rehearsal strategies for developing individual musical skills and ensemble sound.
- Performance Planning: Ability to plan and execute engaging and artistically compelling concert programs with both choral masterworks and individual selections across a wide variety of styles.
- Communication Skills: Excellent verbal and non-verbal communication skills to effectively convey musical ideas, instructions, and feedback.
- Leadership Skills: Ability to inspire, motivate, and guide singers of varying skill levels and experience.
- Organizational Skills: Ability to manage rehearsals, concerts, and other administrative tasks efficiently. Ability to identify and hire instrumentalists for concerts.
- Interpersonal Skills: Ability to build positive relationships with choir members, staff, and community members.
- Experience and Qualifications: Experience leading choirs: Prior experience directing choirs at various levels, including community choirs.
- Education: Bachelor's degree in Music Education, Choral Conducting, or a related field is required.
A Master's degree in Choral Conducting or Music Education is preferred
- Professional Development: Commitment to ongoing professional development and learning.

- Passion for Music: A genuine passion for music and a desire to share the joy of singing with others.

Music Director/Conductor Duties and Responsibilities (as described in the RCS By-Laws)

This interim position is for the 2025-26 season (Aug 2025 to July 26) with the possibility of becoming permanent should the current conductor not return from a leave of absence.

- Inspire a shared vision among all members.
- Shall be responsible for maintaining and improving the musical standards of the Society.
- Shall select and procure all music to be performed in consultation and with approval of the Board of Directors. It is expected that there will be at least two concert programs per year, (normally in early December and late spring) with each program to be performed two or three times.
- Shall provide members with direction on preparation in advance of each rehearsal and provide constructive artistic, musical and performance-related feedback to the Chorus to achieve the best possible choral sound.
- Shall conduct all rehearsals and concerts and audition new members in September and January. Shall provide, at his or her own expense, a qualified substitute when unable to conduct a rehearsal or performance.
- Shall be allowed up to 2 paid rehearsal absences per season
- Shall normally choose vocal soloists from within the membership and coach soloists and small group ensembles.
- Shall work with the Vice President to select venues and the Board of Directors to establish concert dates for all concerts prior to the first rehearsal of the fall semester
- Shall contract for all orchestral personnel after receiving Board approval for a concert budget and shall stay within the budget allowed.
- Network with other arts organizations, music directors, and community groups to increase the visibility of the Chorus and to encourage collaboration and avoid concert program or date conflicts when possible.

- Shall identify concert themes and collaborations that support the chorus' mission. Research and select appropriate music for the upcoming season.
- Provide the Board of Directors with concert musical program recommendations approximately 45 days prior to the start of each semester to allow the board to review all selections and allow the librarian sufficient time to acquire and organize the music for each semester.
- Organize and present a draft rehearsal schedule at the beginning of each concert semester.
- Attend Board meetings as a voting member and provide a quarterly report to the Board and an Annual report at the Annual business meeting following the spring concert series.
- Communicate prior to the semester with the Accompanist regarding the rehearsal plan details as well as any other musical performance details and preferences and planning for recording rehearsal tapes when/ if required.

Application Procedure / Timeline

1. Applicants should submit application materials consisting of;
2. Cover letter; provide a statement of interest summarizing your interest in applying for the position of Music Director including what you feel are your strengths as a conductor and artistic leader, your vision for the Choral Society going forward and your professional expectations – what you hope to gain from this.
3. Experience; List of choral groups you have conducted, which includes
 4. a. Name of group and location;
 - b. Size (number of singers);
 - c. Auditioned or Non-Auditioned;
 - d. How long you conducted the chorus;
 - e. Type of music performed;
 - f. Number of concerts each year
5. Resume/CV ; List of Choral works you have conducted with and without Orchestra
6. References; names and contact information of 2-3 references familiar with your Choral experience

7. Links to relevant sites containing recordings;
8. 2-3 sample programs

Submit to director@rockinghamchoral.org.

Process target dates;

- Applications and all documents are due by May 31
- Determine and interview top 5 applicants who meet requirements in early June. From this, the committee will narrow the candidates down to 3
- Live audition Rehearsal; a 30 minute audition rehearsal to the chorus sometime in early July for final 3 candidates
- A decision will be made and all applicants will be notified by July 15 with a contract start date of August 1

The Rockingham Choral Society is an equal opportunity employer. The Rockingham Choral Society does not discriminate against any applicant or employee on the basis of age, color, sex, disability, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

The Rockingham Choral Society is a registered 501c3 non-profit organization in good standing with the IRS and the state of NH. [RCS current Financials](#)