



ENSEMBLE LAUDE
Choral Society

Call for Applications Interim Artistic Director

Ensemble Laude Choral Society seeks an Interim Artistic Director to plan and execute Ensemble Laude's 2024-25 concert season. A typical season consists of singer auditions, repertoire selection, weekly rehearsals, periodic sectionals, one or two retreats, and concerts in the fall and spring sessions. This one-year contract position commences July 1, 2024, and reports to the ELCS Board of Directors. Remuneration will be based on qualifications and experience.

Ensemble Laude is a diverse and inclusive auditioned 60 voice upper voices choir. Established in 1999 under the leadership of Dr. Elizabeth MacIsaac, Ensemble Laude has a long history of delivering joyful performances to audiences in Victoria and the surrounding areas, as well as nationally and internationally. The choir performs a wide range of repertoire encompassing ancient, classical, sacred, secular, and multicultural repertoire including commissions from Canadian composers.

The ideal applicant will have several years' experience in choral conducting and choir management. A knowledge of a wide span of global a cappella choral repertoire for SSAA voices is required. They should have excellent musical abilities, outstanding organizational skills and strong leadership and communication skills, while being able to inspire, coordinate and motivate a diverse group of singers.

Interested applicants should contact us by email at info@ensemblelaude.org. Please submit a resume, a letter indicating your interest and why you are applying, and at least one video or audio file or link of you conducting a choir. Applications will be accepted up to April 15, 2024. Shortlisted applicants will be expected to attend a rehearsal session with the choir in May following an interview with the selection committee.

Responsibilities of the position are included on the next page.

Responsibilities

1. Artistic Direction:

- Responsible for creating, implementing, and making final decisions for all elements pertaining to the public artistic representation of Ensemble Laude.
- Prepare a repertoire of music for the season appropriate to concert themes and the abilities of the choir.
- Engage and collaborate with other artists as needed to create vibrant and original arts programs.
- Select and audition singers and section leaders as required and inform auditionees of their acceptance or rejection.
- Oversee the Emerging Artists program: recruit and mentor one or two young people wishing to embark upon a conducting career. The Emerging Artist(s) will assist the AD in rehearsals, sectionals and concerts.
- Plan and conduct rehearsals.
- Engage with singers and answer questions as needed.
- Evaluate ongoing progress, and make arrangements as needed for any extra rehearsals or sectionals.
- Plan and conduct retreats as bonding opportunities for the choir and to work on areas such as voice production, deeper understanding of the repertoire, pronunciation of different languages, etc.
- Direct and oversee the production of concerts, including final selection of repertoire, stage direction, technical elements, blocking and dress rehearsals, and special effects, subject to budget limitations and Board approval.
- Provide input for the Board to negotiate and contract any paid production, choreography, musicians, videographers, lighting and/or sound engineers or other supporting roles for concerts.

2. Operational Responsibilities

- Collaborate with the General Manager regularly to optimize the management and direction of Ensemble Laude
- Work with the Treasurer and the Budget Committee to plan revenues and expenditures prior to the choral year, and to adjust and refine the budget over the course of the season.
- Advise the General Manager of information to include in weekly chorister communications.
- Review and approve material prepared for the marketing of the concerts including audio and visual representation of the choir as well as notes for the concert programme.
- Media interviews
- Consult with and provide timely guidance to the Board of Directors on matters concerning financial and governance issues.
- Review the Singer Guidelines at the beginning of the season and update as required.
- Attend monthly Board meetings and submit a brief report.
- Provide consultation and input for the preparation of grant applications.