



Chorus Niagara is seeking an Artistic Director to provide engaging leadership of the choral art starting in June of 2025.

Chorus Niagara is the area's premier, auditioned community choir of over 80 singers. We are a large, symphonic choir that engages professional orchestras and soloists. Typically we perform four concerts per season, plus other special engagements. Programming ranges from new choral commissions to contemporary and classical master works. Rehearsals are held weekly on Monday evenings throughout September to May.

In addition to performances, Chorus Niagara provides educational and youth programming in the community, including the Chorus Niagara Children's Choir, the Side-by-Side High School Chorale, the Associate Conductor role and the Robert Cooper Choral Scholars.

Chorus Niagara engages in community outreach by programming works to involve community and post-secondary level singers in large works, (e.g. Verdi *Requiem*, Beethoven *Ninth*) and collaborations with other choirs not able to mount works singularly such as the Berlioz *Requiem*. Chorus Niagara connects with the local community by performing in long-term care/retirement homes in December with "Carol Share" day. Chorus Niagara actively branches out into the community through its annual Singathon fundraiser, reaching new audiences and fostering awareness for choral arts. Additionally, our recital-style "Salon" fundraiser specifically supports youth engagement programs, reinforcing the importance of cultivating young local talent and building a vibrant future for the arts within the Niagara Region.

Chorus Niagara has strong organizational infrastructure: two staff comprised of a Managing Director and an Administrator; volunteer-supported operations and fundraising; and solid leadership from the hands-on, working Board of Directors.

Our *Vision* is to awaken and lift the human spirit through the experiential power of the choral art. Our *Mission* is to be a cornerstone of the Niagara arts community through creative and passionate programs that entertain and enthrall.

We are looking for someone with a passion for the choral art and:

- at minimum, a Masters in Music (Conducting) or Masters in Music with equivalent experience and development in conducting;
- at least ten years conducting experience predominantly with choirs, experience with professional instrumental musicians and soloists and mentorship with other conductors;
- the ability to envision, plan and deliver music programs that have artistic merit, meaning and relevance to the community and are appealing to performers and audiences;
- the ability to coach and lead choral pedagogy and provide learning and development experiences through rehearsals and performances that enrich the volunteer and professional artists and other practitioners in the community;
- the capacity and desire to build community, within and beyond the choir itself;
- the ability to collaborate and support strategic and fundraising initiatives;
- outstanding consultation, communication, interpersonal and organizational skills; and
- effective oral and written communication in English.

The Artistic Director is engaged as a fee-for-service, independent contractor, i.e. annual contract-for-service. The Artistic Director reports to, and is an ex-officio member of, the Board of Directors. The contract work is estimated at an average of 20 hours per week and the associated annual fee is anticipated in the range of \$45,000 to \$55,000+applicable HST.

The anticipated fee encompasses all services related to the development, planning and delivery of choral programs, including: talent auditions/evaluations; meetings; rehearsals; performances; preparation and participation in fundraising events such as the annual Singathon and the Salon; the Carol Share community outreach; and other relationship management activities with patrons, donors and grantors. Required services include regular Monday evening rehearsals and additional activities on specific weekends and concert production weeks, including orchestra and soloist rehearsals.

Application Process

1) Submit a letter of interest along with your relevant qualifications, program planning and curation experience as well as conducting history to Jeff Baker at jbaker5@cogeco.ca by **January 6, 2025**. Include email and telephone contact information.

2) Provide a web/internet link to view four to six minutes of rehearsal or performance video, including audio, showing you conducting one or more choral works that demonstrate a range of styles, tempi or genres. Provide the web/internet link to Jeff Baker at jbaker5@cogeco.ca by **January 20, 2025**. Examples of web/internet options include WeTransfer.com and unlisted YouTube link.

Receipt of your information will be acknowledged by email. Materials submitted will be shared confidentially only with other search committee members.

Selection Process

Preliminary interviews are planned for January/February 2025. For short-listed candidates, an in-person conducting assessment will be scheduled for latter February 2025.

The start date for the position is June 2025 for the program year 2025-2026.

Chorus Niagara is committed to equity, inclusion and belonging. Applications are encouraged from people with a diverse background. Reasonable accommodation will be provided during the application and selection process – let us know your needs. All information related to accommodation will be treated confidentially.

Enquiries are welcome! Email Jeff Baker, Chair, Search Committee at jbaker5@cogeco.ca.

We want to hear from you even if you do not have all of the qualifications listed above! We are seeking an artist and a leader: someone with passion for the choral art, someone committed to working with and nurturing volunteer and professional artists, someone who believes in community, outreach and education.

