We are looking for a new Musical Director

About Us

Makin' Muzic is a mixed voice choir in a community style. We use the term "Community style" to mean we don't hold formal auditions but we do ask that members can "hold a tune" which we assess during their first couple of sessions. We sing in either 3 (SAB) or 4 (SATB) part harmony depending on membership at any given time. There is no requirement for our members to be able to read music and therefore all music and parts are taught by ear. We do however work from printed music scores enabling those who can read music to learn faster and help those who can't. We encourage members to follow the score and to read it in terms of things other than the notes – e.g. dynamics.

Our repertoire is focussed around Rock & Pop and Musical Theatre. We are not limited to these genres and have in the past sung swing, folk music (traditional UK, spirituals etc) and occasionally a bit of classical. You can hear us in action at this website http://makinmuzic.org.uk/publicMedia/Promo.mp4. You can also see us in action with the videos here www.makinmuzic.org.uk/videoFiles.html.

We rehearse once a week on a Wednesday evening from 5.30 to 7.30 in central Swindon.

About The Role

Below are some details about the role of our MD and the sorts of things we want them to do. At a high level our key desire is to find someone who will keep choir fun but at the same time ensure that we continue to be the best we can be. For example we don't want to introduce auditioning or set deadlines for learning but nor do we want to sing easy unison music.

Broad Responsibilities

Run rehearsals

- 2 hours each week with a short (5 to 10 minute) break
- Teach each part by ear whilst helping everyone to follow the score.
- Provide recordings to learn from outside rehearsal time
- Bring all pieces to a performance standard agreeable to the choir

Choose repertoire

- Combination of new and existing songs – we don't wish to drop everything we have done in the past
- Chosen in consultation with the choir / committee
- Broaden our repertoire while allowing our core repertoire to continue in a similar style
- Source scores

Provide accompaniment if required

- We are happy singing with good quality recorded tracks either those that are commercially available or by creating our own using the skills within the choir
- We haven't had an accompanist for many years and whilst we would welcome one the cost would need to be considered
- Note the choir can provide some equipment such as portable electric piano and amplifier/speaker.

Prepare choir for and direct 2 concerts per year (Christmas and Summer)

- Programs of around 1 ½ to 2 hours including a 20 minute interval
- Program made up of choir numbers plus solo pieces prepared by individuals

Work with the committee to find/choose and prepare the choir for events other than our concerts such as

- Brighter Futures choir festival
- Singing at care homes or similar (e.g. the Wyvern Memory café at Christmas)
- Potentially taking part in music festival(s) (while it has been a while since we took part we have previously come top of our class at the Wootton Bassett Arts Festival)

Remuneration

The MD role is currently unpaid. The choir recognise that this is unlikely to continue and therefore the committee is prepared to discuss rates with any applicant.

To find out more or to arrange to come along to a rehearsal please email makinmuzic@hotmail.com.