Artistic Director

Belle Voci is a community-based intergenerational women’s choir in Pittsburgh that performs an eclectic repertoire of wide-ranging styles, showcasing the performance practices of the music’s origin. Founded in the fall of 2012 by Craig G. Cannon, Belle Voci will begin its 11th concert season in September 2022.

We are seeking an **Artistic Director** to begin work effective June 1, 2023, to prepare for our concert season which begins September 2023.

Applications are due by November 1, 2022.

What you will do

The Artistic Director provides the artistic vision, leadership, and direction of the Belle Voci choir. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to, the following:

* In collaboration with the President, prepare a schedule for the upcoming season that includes rehearsals, in-residence church service performances, retreats, season reveal event, and concerts.
* Work with the Assistant Director and Solo Voci Director to choose repertoire that is challenging, creative, and of interest to Belle Voci singers and the community. Solo Voci is a small choral ensemble comprised of Belle Voci members who perform exclusively
a cappella music.
* Direct all rehearsals, retreats, and performances. Arrange for the Assistant Director or another designee to conduct any rehearsals from which the Artistic Director will be absent.
* Work with the Marketing & Communications Director to set up rehearsals via Zoom for those who cannot attend in person.
* Regularly communicate and work with Belle Voci’s accompanist to ensure their success, especially by providing advance notification of rehearsal plans so the accompanist can prepare for rehearsals. Recruit accompanist if needed.
* Write a weekly update for the Belle Voci newsletter and email it to the Marketing & Communications Director in a timely manner.
* Manage expenses to stay within the budget amounts provided by the President and Board of Directors.
* Determine which auxiliary musicians, soloists, narrators, or other personnel (if any) will be needed for the upcoming season and make arrangements with them regarding when they are needed for rehearsals and concerts. Work with Music Librarian to ensure that auxiliary performers receive music in advance of rehearsals.
* Ask Music Librarian to send music to sign-language interpreter well in advance of concerts.
* Recruit and audition potential new members of Belle Voci. Provide contact information for new members to Marketing & Communications Director, Music Librarian, and Bookkeeper.
* Work with the sensory-friendly concert team to hold at least one sensory-friendly concert per season.
* Serve as a key spokesperson for Belle Voci. Participate in media interviews to promote Belle Voci and its performances.
* Ask Music Librarian to send electronic copies of music for the upcoming season to Choral Tracks and request voice part recordings.
* Supervise the Accompanist, Assistant Director, Director of Solo Voci, and Music Librarian.
* Complete an annual performance evaluation for the Assistant Director and the Director of Solo Voci.
* Present an update at each Board of Directors meeting.

Your background

* Interest in and commitment to embracing Belle Voci’s mission.
* A Bachelor’s degree in Music required, a Master’s degree in Music preferred, with experience as a singer in choral ensembles, and with competency in piano.
* Demonstrate a thorough understanding of vocal technique and diction, diverse musical styles, and effective rehearsal technique.
* Minimum of 5 years of artistic programming and conducting experience.
* Experience conducting and working with singers of various musical abilities.
* A passion for leading, enriching, and educating singers through meaningful musical experiences.
* Strong leadership skills plus the ability to work well within a team construct.
* Strong written and verbal communication skills.
* Strong organizational and interpersonal skills.

Compensation

The monthly salary range of $766 to $1,000 will be based on candidate’s qualifications and experience.

Application Process

To apply, please send a cover letter, resume, completed Application (<https://forms.gle/E4pZ4R3GLkoqwAWo6>) and a list of diverse works conducted in the past five years to doris@bellevocipgh.com. Also submit at least three live performance video recordings (preferably works for treble voices) as one or more YouTube links, plus two letters of professional (not character) reference.

About Belle Voci

Our mission is “Connecting Song and Community” through exemplary collaborations of artistic diversity. We are committed to fostering and preserving a culture of diversity, accessibility, and inclusion. We believe music encourages creativity and promotes civic engagement and a healthy community. Belle Voci welcomes singers of all backgrounds, ethnicities, sexual orientations, gender identities, races, religious beliefs, and mental and physical abilities.

Belle Voci’s season traditionally runs from September through May. Rehearsals are held on Wednesdays from 7 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. at Aspinwall Presbyterian Church and on Zoom. Belle Voci prepares two to three unique productions every season, with at least three to five total performances of those productions. Concerts are held in December and May. One of the December performances is a sensory-friendly concert.

Our programming is intentionally eclectic, featuring music spanning motets of the Renaissance, to jazz standards of the 20th Century, to African American gospel choruses of contemporary times, to rock and roll, and we’re diligent about performing them authentically.

We specialize in collaborating with artists such as Joe Negri, Benny Benack, Aeolian Winds of Pittsburgh, Giambelli String Quartet, Heritage Gospel Chorale of Pittsburgh, and Steel City Men’s Chorale, among others. Concert venues include First Baptist Church (Oakland), East Liberty Presbyterian Church, St. Stanislaus Church (Strip District), Bellefield Hall (University of Pittsburgh), and Pentecostal Temple COGIC (Larimer). Everything we do is to connect song and community, and we believe that we most uniquely serve others with our voices.

Belle Voci conducts business operations at Faith United Methodist Church in Fox Chapel, PA, as the officially registered address of the non-profit. The choir has held all rehearsals at Aspinwall Presbyterian Church since September 2019. This location makes Belle Voci membership easier with multiple bus lines available, providing improved accessibility for members to public transportation.

In the last ten years, Belle Voci has successfully performed hundreds of traditional choral works produced by composers who have written music in the previous five centuries. However, the group has also developed a strong appetite for premiering newer, challenging, stimulating, and thought-provoking pieces—the kinds of works composers have been inspired to write with a desire to bring awareness to social events, social injustices, societal inequities, world tragedies, a lack of representation, etc. Belle Voci is attracted to compositions focusing on diversity, inclusion, equity, and empowerment, especially if these issues are connected directly to women.

For more information about Belle Voci, please visit our website at bellevocipgh.com. Belle Voci is an Equal Opportunity Employer.