

Artistic Director

Lawrence Children's Choir, Lawrence, Kansas

Description

The Lawrence Children's Choir (LCC) seeks a visionary and dynamic music educator and leader to serve as Artistic Director beginning in the 2021-2022 season. This position will oversee the musical operations and artistic direction of LCC including the recruiting and selection of singers, management of artistic staff, conducting of choirs, and formation and oversight of all associated ensembles. The LCC Artistic Director works in collaboration with the Executive Director and reports to the Board of Directors.

History

Founded in 1991 by Janeal Krehbiel and Marilyn Epp, LCC provides children and youth the opportunity to experience musical excellence and cultural enrichment through choral music. Choir members experience age-appropriate choral music of the highest quality; musicianship training; vocal technique; the inspiration and joy of shared musical harmony; and the fulfillment that comes from public performance.

LCC is comprised of five youth choirs during normal, non-pandemic years for children in Pre-K through Grade 10:

- Ambassador Choir (~20 members who are also members of Tour Choir – 8th to 10th grade)
- Tour Choir (~50 members – 5th to 10th grade)
- Choristers (~30 members – 3rd to 6th grade)
- Cadenza (~45 members – 1st to 3rd grade)
- Capo (~35 members – 3 years old to 5 years old)

Rehearsals occur once per week for each choir during two ~15 week semesters with additional rehearsals during concert weeks at the end of each semester. Emphasis is on age-appropriate vocal training and technique, rehearsal and performance skills, cultural education and musical excellence developed through high quality choral literature. Equally important is providing opportunities for young people to experience joy and meaning through engagement in music.

The LCC Tour Choir is the largest and most prominent of the choirs, touring annually during the summer, performing locally and collaborating with other artists and organizations. The Tour Choir has performed in England, Canada, Costa Rica, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, and all over the U.S. The choir traveled to Ireland in June 2019. Recent collaborations have included:

- "Carmina Burana" with the Kansas City Symphony and Symphony Chorus, under the direction of conductor Ryan McAdams, March 2019.
- "The Play of Daniel" with Anne Azema and the Boston Camerata, January 2018 (part of the Kansas City Chamber Music Series).

Over the last decade, esteemed choral educator Carolyn Welch has served as Artistic Director of LCC. She will be retiring from LCC following the spring 2021 concert. During the current 2020-2021 season, Welch has led LCC's successful pivot to a fully virtual learning environment. ~60 students are participating this season and are divided between Advanced, Intermediate and Beginner choirs.

Position Summary

The successful candidate will build upon the 30-year history of LCC and establish a compelling vision and direction for the next 30 years that will increase the vibrancy of the organization. The candidate will hold a deep understanding of young singers and a passion for and knowledge of vocal development. The candidate must be an outstanding vocalist, exceptional conductor and skilled in coaching individual singers in a rehearsal setting. While staying current with industry trends, the candidate will enthusiastically maintain a challenging and rewarding program for all choir members and artistic staff. This enthusiasm will be evident through the candidate's recruiting and selection of singers, management of artistic staff, conducting of choirs, repertoire selection and formation and oversight of all associated ensembles.

The successful candidate will partner with the Executive Director to plan and lead annual tours that are artistically and educationally fulfilling for Tour Choir members. They will also collaborate with the Executive Director to secure grant funding. The Artistic Director will represent LCC in the Lawrence and regional arts communities, establishing positive relationships with donors, families and other community stakeholders including the University of Kansas and Lawrence Public Schools. They will have an established industry network and serve as the "face" of the organization from a promotional perspective. It will be of utmost importance for the successful candidate to collaborate with the Board of Directors to identify strategies for LCC to remain relevant as exhibited by healthy enrollments while maintaining high artistic quality.

Position Requirements

- Bachelor's or Master's Degree (preferred) in Choral Conducting, Vocal Performance, or Music Education
- Knowledge of choral techniques, vocal pedagogy and a broad range of choral repertoire for children's choir.
- Teaching experience at the K-12 level and/or with community children's choral programs
- Demonstrated commitment to diversity with a keen sense of programmatic relevance among the target student age groups
- Strong and enthusiastic vision for increasing the vibrancy of children's choirs
- Technological capability in teaching, producing, and performing choral music in virtual and in-person venues
- Outstanding interpersonal and communication skills with the ability to partner with the Executive Director and collaborate with the LCC Board
- Experience with planning and implementing travel experiences for 5th through 10th graders
- An established history of building lasting relationships with families, donors and community stakeholders
- Ability to house (preferred) and maintain the LCC music library, instruments and equipment including digital keyboard, small PA system, small stools, hats, carpet squares, etc.

Compensation for this part-time position is commensurate with experience.

Applications

Please submit the following to LCCADSearch@gmail.com:

- Cover letter
- Resume/CV
- 3 professional references with contact information
- Rehearsal video (~15 minutes): one choir demonstrating warm-up routine and rehearsal techniques (unlisted or private YouTube video link or shared video from Google Drive would be sufficient)
- 2-4 concert program repertoire samples
- Concert performance video – 3 to 5 songs (unlisted or private YouTube video link or shared video from Google Drive would be sufficient)
 - Please include title, composer, voicing, date, and location of performance

All applications will be treated as confidential. Review of applications will begin on March 8, 2021 and will continue until the position is filled. Prompt submissions are encouraged.