

Position Description

Masterworks Chorale of Carroll County

Artistic Director

January 2019

To be considered for this position, please send a cover letter and your current resume to search@masterworksofcc.org. Deadline for submissions is March 1, 2019.

The Organization

The Chorale

The Masterworks Chorale of Carroll County, founded as the Carroll County Choral Arts Society, was established in 1977 under the direction of Dr. David Kreider, a concert pianist and faculty member at McDaniel College (then Western Maryland College).

A non-auditioned ensemble, it is composed of men and women who are passionate about learning and performing great choral music. Singers come primarily from Carroll County, with some members traveling from as far as Baltimore, Towson, Howard County and Southern Pennsylvania to participate. Members' music experience and expertise range from amateur musicians who have sung in church and school choirs to professional music and voice teachers. The Chorale accepts members aged 16 and over.

A nonprofit organization, Masterworks depends on the financial support of the individuals, institutions, and organizations in the community. The Chorale currently receives grants from the Maryland State Arts Council and the Carroll County Arts Council. Its members participate in a variety of fundraising activities, including sale of advertisements in the Spring and Fall Concert programs, which defray a significant amount of the Chorale's operating costs. Members also pay dues at the beginning of each concert season.

The composition and number of participating singers varies from concert to concert. The makeup of chorus is influenced both by the Artistic Director's choice of repertoire and each individual's availability. The size of the Chorale has varied from about 40 to more than 70.

Currently, the Chorale performs two concerts each year—one in May and one in November. Performances take place on Sunday afternoon. Concerts are about 90 minutes long including a 15-minute intermission. Typically, the concert includes several shorter pieces before intermission and a major "masterwork" after intermission.

Accompaniment for performance ranges from piano/organ to chamber ensembles. Choral soloists come from the membership of the Chorale.

Rehearsals for the Spring Concert generally begin in late January or early February and for the Fall Concert in late August or early September, at the Artistic Director's discretion. The Artistic Director

also auditions and works with selected soloists for each concert during the rehearsal period to help them develop a high-quality performance standard.

The Chorale rehearses from 7 to 9:30 p.m. every Tuesday during the concert season at the Westminster Church of the Brethren, with two additional dress rehearsals in the performance venue. Its traditional performance venue is Baker Memorial Chapel (Big Baker) on the campus of McDaniel College.

In the 47 years since its founding, the group has brought the community the works of masters such as Mozart, Brahms, Haydn, Handel, and Mendelssohn, as well as contemporary composers. It has premiered works by local composers Garth Baxter, Justine Koonz and Lorraine Whittlesey.

In addition to performing locally, the group has sung in Baltimore at the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen and with the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions Choir. It had collaborated in performances with Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Georgetown University Orchestra and Choir, Columbia Orchestra, Frederick Regional Youth Orchestra, Westminster Symphony Orchestra, Children's Chorus of Carroll County and the McDaniel College Choirs.

It has regularly participated in fundraising concerts for community charities including the Carroll County Women's Shelter and E.S.C.A.P.E. Ministries, an organization providing help to economically disadvantaged residents in the community. At the beginning of the fall season, Masterworks has held a choral workshop open at no charge to introduce the music for the Fall Concert to potential singers and regular members.

The Carroll Festival Chorus, composed of members of both the Masterworks Chorale and the McDaniel College Choir, was selected in July 2005 to participate in Festival 500, "Sharing the Voices," held in St. John's, Newfoundland. More recently, Masterworks Chorale participated in the 2012 World Choir Games in Cincinnati. In 2006, members of Masterworks Chorale formed the nucleus of the choir that premiered Lorraine Whittlesey's *Einstein's Dreams* (it's about time...), based on the novel *Einstein's Dreams* by Alan Lightman.

The Chorale's current Artistic Director, Dr. Margaret Boudreaux, has been with the Chorale since 2002. Ted Dix, the group's accompanist, holds a master's degree from Westminster Choir College at Rider University and Organist and Director of Traditional Music and Music Ministry Development at Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church. He teaches courses in Aural Musicianship, Music Theory, and private organ study at McDaniel College.

With the exception of the Artistic Director and the Accompanist, Masterworks Chorale is an all-volunteer organization. The membership elects the Board of Directors from the ranks. Each Board member serves a term of two years. Under the bylaws, the Vice President becomes President of the Board after completing a two-year term.

Accompaniment for performance ranges from piano/organ to chamber ensembles.

Choral soloists come from the membership of the Chorale. The Artistic Director auditions and works with selected soloists to help them develop a high quality performance standard.

Organization's Web Address: <http://www.masterworksofcc.org>

The Position

Position Title	Artistic Director
Location	Westminster, MD
Reporting Relationship	Board of Directors

Main Focus and Challenges

The Artistic Director, in collaboration with the Board of Directors, provides the artistic leadership and vision for Masterworks Chorale of Carroll County.

He/she is responsible for selecting repertoire, all aspects of music leadership, working with the accompanist and others, as necessary, to assure well-run and productive rehearsals which result in quality public performances.

This person will also work with the organization's webmaster to create and post rehearsal plans so that singers are able to work independently to master the music, come to rehearsals better-prepared and meet the Artistic Director's performance expectations.

In his/her position as Artistic Director, this person is the face and voice of the Chorale in the community. He/she plays a critical role in building, creating and maintaining Chorale membership.

This person plays a critical role in developing and maintaining collaborative relationships with local musicians, music and arts organizations.

He/she is also responsible for creating program notes for each concert. The Artistic Director attends and participates in the Board of Director's meetings, which are held monthly from August through May.

The Person

Qualifications & Experience

This is an outstanding opportunity for an experienced choral conductor who understands the importance of a community chorus in the cultural life of a growing suburban/rural community and has a clear vision for what she/he wants the organization to be.

The qualified candidate is an exceptional musician and experienced choral conductor who can demonstrate a broad knowledge of choral repertoire. The successful candidate has an expansive knowledge of the classical choral repertoire—both historical and modern.

He/she has the ability to build an engaging concert program—balancing the desire to “stretch” the audience's and the singers' musical scope and understanding, with the enjoyment of more familiar classical works.

The successful candidate has excellent organizational and leadership skills, with the strategic skills to develop and run fruitful, enjoyable, productive rehearsals.

He/she can demonstrate the ability to work with singers with a broad variety of music skills to build a cohesive, pleasing choral “sound.”

Ideally, this person is not only an experienced choral conductor, but has

had personal experience as a chorus member. He/she understands the unique place and value of a volunteer chorus in a community's arts fabric.

Experience working with a community chorus or other volunteer performance organization is a definite plus.

This person possesses and conveys a genuine appreciation for the musical contributions every member makes to a quality concert performance.

This person can demonstrate the ability to inspire and engage chorus members. He/she is a builder who aims not only to create strong programs, but to build and expand singers' vocal skills.

Familiarity with the Carroll County community and its arts organization is a definite advantage.

Personal Characteristics

This person is a collegial leader, comfortable and effective working with individuals inside and outside the organization.

He/she has excellent consensus-building skills and is an exceptional listener, who understands that strong relationships are often built more on listening than on talking. A sense of humor is essential.

He/she is flexible, patient, and can shift priorities as needed.

Collaborative, outgoing and enthusiastic, this person has a passion for classical choral music, a real drive for high quality results and respect for dedication and commitment volunteer singers demonstrate.

This person is approachable and engaging. He/she is open to ideas and input; but while welcoming that input, makes decisions based on what he/she feels is in the best interests of the chorus and its members.

The successful candidate possesses outstanding oral and written communication skills.

Experience with reporting to and collaborating with a volunteer Board of Directors is a definite plus.

To be considered for this position, please send a cover letter and your current resume to search@masterworksofcc.org. Deadline for submissions is March 1, 2019.

Contract for the new Artistic Director will begin May 1, 2019