



Job Description

MK Acapella is Milton Keynes' very own all male barbershop choir who are dedicated to singing in 4 part harmony and promoting this unique sound across the city and beyond. Founded in 1986 we have been entertaining crowds across MK for over 35 years. The aim of the club is to encourage the singing and enjoyment of Barbershop Harmony in both Chorus and Quartet form. MK Acapella compete annually at the MK Arts Festival and the BABS Convention.

Role Title	Music Director
Reports to	Executive Committee

The Music Director of MK Acapella will provide the artistic and musical vision, leadership, and inspiration, as well the technical and teaching skills, to continue to advance the Chorus' artistic excellence. The Director will be the artistic and musical leader of the Chorus, ultimately responsible to the Members and the Executive Committee for all musical, artistic, interpretive and visual performance activities.

Core Responsibilities

- Commit to being the MK Acapella's Music Director and inspirational leader
- Plan and direct the Chorus rehearsals
- Direct all performances
- Champion and execute the artistic, musical and performance-related growth of the Chorus
- Teach and educate Chorus members
- Take ultimate responsibility for the selection and preparation of a diverse and exciting repertoire in collaboration with the Music Committee and Executive Committee
- Prepare and motivate the Chorus to perform at its highest level
- Provide constructive artistic, musical and performance-related feedback to the Chorus
- Own all of the artistic and performance aspects of the repertoire including the interpretation, emotional plan, visual and vocal presentation
- Pursue musical development as an educator, conductor and performer
- Solicit and respond to constructive feedback from the Executive Committee and the Members
- Undertake membership auditions - with ultimate authority for acceptance of new Members and performance readiness of all Members
- Lead and direct member recruitment activities including Learn to Sing courses
- Assist in determining voice part assignments

Internal Communications

- Inspire a shared vision
- Coordinate with the Music Committee and Executive Committee on the use of outside coaches, instructors, and choreographers
- Assist in production activities for all concerts and contest packages
- Actively participate in programmatic planning with the Executive Committee to ensure a strong annual calendar, which meets or exceeds the Chorus' goals for musical excellence, outreach and financial sustainability



External Communications

- Actively represent the Chorus to external stakeholders and potential partners
- Actively engage with the Executive Committee in planning and executing outreach activities including those with other musical groups, arts councils, schools and more
- Champion and participate in outreach activities as designated
- Promote the Chorus within the community
- Promote the MK Acapella “brand” and raise its profile within the British Association of Barbershop Singers, including the director, arranger and contest & judging communities, as well as within the general choral arts community, especially in the East and Midlands of England

The Candidate:

Artistic Skills

- Proven and demonstrated musical skills
- Outstanding teaching, rehearsal and delivery skills
- Outstanding directing techniques (conducting and hand skills)
- Experience directing an adult concert choir or barbershop chorus of at least 20 members
- Knowledge and understanding of a diverse repertoire
- Ability to weigh the quality, difficulty, and performing pleasure of chorus repertoire to ensure the correct balance of marketability, audience appeal and member engagement

Strategic Development Skills

- A vision for the advancement of the Chorus’ overall mission, reputation and community impact
- Ability and desire to cultivate contacts within the artistic community
- Ability to communicate effectively with all stakeholders and maintain strong working relationships with all participants and partners

Personal Leadership Qualities

- Integrity, loyalty, decisiveness, accountability, strength of character and the ability to work effectively with others in a member-driven organization
- Outstanding interpersonal skills
- Proven ability to connect with a wide range of individuals in diverse settings

In addition, it is desirable that the Musical Director possess

A college degree in music or music education (with some formal training in choral directing) or its equivalent.



The Scope:

- The following represents the “typical” annual scope of chorus activity for Director engagement:
 - 45-48 Monday night rehearsals
 - Two to four extra full day coaching sessions
 - At least one MK Acapella - produced show (one to three performances per show)
 - One or two regional events – either BABS convention or similar
 - One “Love to Sing” event
 - Occasional one-off and community performances, TBD
- MK Acapella will offer a competitive and creative compensation commensurate with your musical/artistic skills, experience and potential, as well as your drive for engagement, outreach and community involvement.

The Process:

To apply, please email a covering letter with the points above addressed and a CV

Please contact **James Boyle, Public Relations Officer, MK Acapella** on pro@mkacapella.com

Deadline for applications is Monday 6th December 2021. We intend to engage the new Director from January 2022.