



Musical Director Position

About the Choir

The Dentdale Choir (described as "a hidden gem" by Jolyon Dodgson) is a community-based chamber choir which rehearses in the beautiful and historic village of Dent, Cumbria (which is also in the Yorkshire Dales National Park). We have typically around 30 members across SATB drawn from a wide area, including north Lancashire. We are committed to singing and performing a range of music in a relaxed and sociable setting. The Choir celebrated its 40th Anniversary in 2016. We continued singing regularly online throughout the pandemic, returning to regular "in-person" rehearsals in September 2021.

Over the years we have enjoyed singing from a wide repertoire, including larger works, such as Durufle's Requiem, Schubert's Mass in G, Vivaldi's Gloria, Jenkin's The Armed Man, as well as shorter classical pieces by Bruckner, Rachmaninov, Mozart, and Faure, etc. We've also sung contemporary choral music by, among others, Ola Gjeilo, Arvo Pärt, Eriks Esenvalds, Will Todd, Morten Lauridsen, as well as lighter programmes, including music from stage and screen.

The choir rehearses weekly from 7.15pm to 9.00pm on a Tuesday evening in Dent Memorial Hall between September and May, breaking for the summer period. The latter part of the autumn term includes rehearsing pieces for the carol services in churches in Dent and Cowgill, but the overall objective is our annual concert, usually in early May. From time to time we also take part in other community events such as weddings and funerals. We are fortunate to be regularly supported by multi-instrumentalist and Dent church organist, Roger Bush, who provides accompaniment at carol services and other concerts as required, as well as locally based professional singers and musicians.

The choir's activities are managed by a small and friendly committee which, among other things, liaises with local charitable organisations to access and secure grant funding. The choir is a member of the Westmorland Music Trust and Making Music.

Musical Director

Our current musical director, Richard Bruce, is sadly leaving the choir at the end of our 2021/22 season and we are seeking to appoint a replacement to join us from September 2022.

Responsibilities

- Planning repertoire for the term
- Leading the regular rehearsals (30+ Tuesday commitments per year) and directing concerts
- Working with the committee to prepare concert programmes and promotional materials
- Promoting the work of the choir and supporting the committee to take up appropriate singing opportunities regionally
- Developing the choir's sound and musical capabilities

Person Specification

- Experience directing choral groups or musical ensembles (although the choir would be open to a candidate beginning their musical career)
- Familiarity with a broad range of repertoire and an enthusiasm for leading and performing a diverse range of choral music
- Ability to lead and enthuse a group of singers
- Ability to direct and lead from the keyboard as required
- A clear plan and direction for future music making appropriate to the skills and interests of the choir

Application Process

Potential applicants should submit a one-page covering letter plus CV to the choir's secretary (details below). Depending on experience, two references may be requested.

Potential applicants are welcome to discuss the role informally with the committee's chair, secretary or current director (details below).

The appointment process will include an interview with the choir committee and, potentially, lead to a short rehearsal.

Remuneration and contract

The successful applicant will contract with the choir on a self-employed basis. A probationary period will be agreed and remuneration will be subject to negotiation.

The deadline for applications is 31st August 2022.

Contact details:

Committee chair: Jenny Robinson (07855192961, jennycumbriarobinson@gmail.com)
Committee secretary: John Feltham (01539625689, feltham.john@btinternet.com)
Musical Director: Richard Bruce richard_d_bruce@hotmail.com
Choir website: <https://dentdalechoir.com>