

ANNOUNCEMENT OF OPENING

DIRECTOR OF CHORAL ACTIVITIES

Harvard University seeks a Director of Choral Activities (DCA) to direct and supervise the Choral Program in Harvard College. She/he will conduct the three principal choruses known as the Holden Choirs: the Harvard Glee Club (men), the Radcliffe Choral Society (women), and the Harvard Radcliffe Collegium Musicum (mixed). The Harvard Glee Club (HGC) is the oldest college choir in the United States and the Radcliffe Choral Society (RCS) is the oldest women's organization at Harvard. Together they served for more than 50 years as the principal choruses for the Boston Symphony Orchestra. The Harvard Radcliffe Collegium Musicum (HRCM) was formed in 1971 with the advent of coeducation at Harvard and has become one of the elite collegiate mixed choirs in America.

Each of the Holden Choirs has an active concert schedule and tours frequently during the academic year and during University vacation. The DCA conducts two of these ensembles in any given year and is assisted by an Associate Conductor (AC) and three Assistant Conductors. The Director is responsible for all music decisions, repertoire, and conductorial leadership, and works with the Associate Conductor and with the students to plan, schedule, and carry out the activities of each chorus. In addition, the Director of Choral Activities teaches two courses in the Music Department and holds the rank of Senior Lecturer or similar rank commensurate with qualifications.

About the Choral Program at Harvard

Over the past 32 years the choral program at Harvard has earned a distinguished national reputation under the leadership of Dr. Jameson Marvin, who has built upon the tradition of his four predecessors (Archibald T. Davison, G. Wallace Woodworth, Elliot Forbes, and F. John Adams). Today, Dr. Marvin oversees six choirs: the three Holden Choirs, the Holden Chamber Ensembles, the Harvard-Radcliffe Chorus, and the Choir-in-Progress (teaching Skills for Singing). Collectively, these choirs engage approximately 400 singers.

Governance and Management

The Choral Program is supported and overseen by the Office for the Arts at Harvard and the Harvard University Music Department. The conductor has a joint appointment and reports to the Music Department Chair and to the Director of the Office for the Arts.

The Harvard Glee Club, Radcliffe Choral Society, and Harvard Radcliffe Collegium Musicum are student-run organizations, which is the case with most student arts organizations at Harvard. The student leaders have responsibility for all administrative functions of the Holden Choirs, including budgeting, financial management, marketing, and production related matters (e.g., printed programs, ticketing, etc.). Artistic considerations, including concert programming, are the purview of the conductor.

The HGC, RCS, and HRCM receive support from the respective Foundations of the Glee Club, Choral Society, and Collegium. The Foundations are comprised of Harvard and Radcliffe alumni/ae, and advise student managers in each of the ensembles. The Foundations raise funds from their alumni/ae, and manage respective endowments that help defray expenses for the undergraduate choruses. Other sources of funding for the Holden Choirs are the Endowment for Choral Music at Harvard and Radcliffe as well as the Knauff Fund for each ensemble.

The Student Arts Scene at Harvard

Harvard (and, before the merger of the two, Harvard and Radcliffe) has a rich tradition of art making. Nearly half of the College's 6,600 undergraduates participate in an arts practice, and as a community, it is prolific. Students produce 40 to 60 fully staged theatrical productions annually. The dance community presents 50 concerts annually, and the number of studio exhibitions of visual art is comparable.

The music community is especially ambitious. Harvard students present close to 450 concerts annually – everything from operas to a cappella (including 16 groups) to recitals, chamber music, rock concerts, jazz performances, and a host of musical presentations from non-Western traditions.

Many Harvard singers and instrumentalists are conservatory caliber musicians who have opted for a liberal arts education at Harvard. A select few already have professional performing careers. It is, in short, a vibrant and very full arts scene at Harvard, which is supported principally by the Office for the Arts at Harvard, as well as various academic departments including the Music Department.

Position Description – Director of Choral Activities

The Director of Choral Activities reports jointly to the Chair of the Music Department and the Director of the Office for the Arts at Harvard. She/he serves in the Music Department, with a rank and salary determined by experience and qualifications, teaching up to two courses per academic year. The DCA and Associate Conductor together supervise the Choral Program including the three Holden Choirs (each numbering about 60 singers), the Harvard Radcliffe Chorus (HRC), Choir-in-Progress (CHIP), and the Holden Chamber Ensembles (HCE). The Associate Conductor conducts the HRC (a community/student chorus of 180 voices), and assists the DCA in conducting the Holden Choirs at about 1/3 time. Assisted by the Choral Administrator, the DCA and AC also coordinate the Holden Voice Training Program and work with the Assistant Conductors of the Holden Choirs and Faculty Aides.

The DCA, as Principal Conductor of the Holden Choirs, is responsible for maintaining the highest artistic and pedagogical standards for these three choirs. She/he must lead the Harvard Glee Club, Harvard Radcliffe Collegium Musicum, and Radcliffe Choral Society with vision, energy, creativity and originality, and with impeccable musicianship and technique. Inspired leadership, comprehensive knowledge of Western choral literature and the ability to direct and maintain the three Holden Choirs' level of excellence in the unique context of a liberal arts institution are fundamental.

The DCA and AC audition new membership each year in two stages: a preliminary audition and a quartet audition. The preliminary audition ascertains voice range and quality and tests the ear and sight-reading of the student. Typically, about 1/4 of the auditionees are not accepted preliminarily into the Holden Choirs and join either the Harvard Radcliffe Chorus or the Choir-in-Progress. Both serve as a training ground for auditioning for the Holden choirs in the following year.

Students may choose which of the Holden Choirs they would like to sing in, and if qualified after the preliminary audition, may be accepted into the HRCM and/or HGC or RCS. Auditionees attend two preliminary rehearsals in which they get to know the nature of the ensemble(s) and learn a piece for a quartet audition, which determines acceptance into one of the three. Depending upon the number of auditionees and the returning rates of the HGC, RCS, and HRCM, about 2/3 of the auditionees are accepted into their first or second choice groups. Those not accepted automatically can join the HRC. The DCA exercises authority on appointments within the Choral Program (the Associate Conductor,

three Assistant Conductors, and the Choral Administrator), consults with student leaders on matters regarding scheduling concerts, tours, and special projects, and makes all decisions on repertoire, in consultation with the AC.

The Holden Choirs maintain a very active concert schedule ranging from performances in Sanders Theatre, to spring tours, summer tours, and special events (choral festivals at Harvard, and choral conventions). The DCA conducts the principal concerts, while Assistant Conductors frequently conduct “run-out” concerts, rehearse their ensembles when needed, and conduct regularly on Holden concerts at Harvard and on tour. Assistant Conductors are professionally trained musicians holding Masters Degrees.

Each of the three Holden Choirs undertakes an international tour once every four years beginning immediately after Commencement and normally concluding near the last week of June. Student Tour Managers are responsible for raising funds for tours and along with the DCA (or AC) plan the general geographic location of the tour. Specific venues, and housing and transportation arrangements are the responsibility of the Tour Manager. Generally students are asked to contribute 1/3 to 1/2 the cost of the tour; some contribute considerably more, many far less.

The Holden Alumni/ae Foundations offer consultation and experienced advice to managers, and provide funding derived from their respective endowment resources. Other resources include the Endowment for Choral Music at Harvard and several other modest endowment gifts to each of the Holden Choirs, available each year. While the conductor does not have financial or general management responsibilities, she/he attends HGC, RCS, and HRCM student board meetings, as well as board meetings of the Foundations of HGC, RCS, and HRCM.

The DCA works closely with the Harvard Admissions Department. Specifically, Admissions vets vocal recordings sent by applicants and frequently passes the best of these along to the DCA or AC for evaluation. The DCA also hears each year about 35 high school students in a brief audition, upon which she/he bases a recommendation to the Admissions Office.

The full extent of responsibilities for the Director of Choral Activities may be grouped into four categories: 1) directing the Holden Choirs each year and supervising the three other choral ensembles; 2) teaching up to two courses per year in the Music Department; 3) supervising the choral staff; 4) being responsible for the administrative component of the Choral Program.

The DCA is responsible for providing music for university ceremonies including: Baccalaureate, Commencement, Phi Beta Kappa, Alumni/ae Memorial Services, and the 25th year Recognition Ceremony. She/he must maintain strong relationships with the Office for the Arts, and the Music Department, the University Organist and Choir Master at the Memorial Church, the Alumni Foundations, Endowment Committees, and the many Deans and Administrative Offices at Harvard.

Teaching

In the Music Department s/he will teach two courses a year, such as choral conducting, choral literature, or performance practice, agreed upon with the Chair of the Department. Finally, as a full-time member of our community, we assume that s/he will be willing to consult informally with graduate and undergraduate students about a variety of topics, be involved in advising and other academic activities, and take an active part in the life of the Music Department. We would welcome applications reflecting the broadest range of interests in music.

Credentials - Candidates should have the following qualifications:

Impeccable musicianship and superior conducting technique; considerable experience in conducting major symphonic-choral works; comprehensive knowledge of Western choral literature from the Renaissance to the present, for mixed chorus, and for men's and/or women's chorus.

The ability to inspire and lead a major choral program in the unique context of a liberal arts institution. A love of conducting and teaching; a passion for educating students, and demonstrable evidence of the ability to achieve the highest artistic standards.

Eight or more years of conducting experience and a distinguished record of artistic leadership. Extensive experience working with collegiate choral ensembles. Demonstrated excellence in teaching is desired. Master's degree required and a strong doctoral record preferred.

Considerable experience in conducting choral repertoire of all stylistic eras with demonstrable evidence of knowledge in the stylistically-informed performance of choral music from prior eras.

A vision for the choral program, its members and audience, at Harvard, nationally, and abroad; the ability to program a creative, artistically satisfying repertoire of the highest standards with three choirs each year.

Harvard is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer. Applications from women and minority candidates are strongly encouraged.

*To apply, please email your cover letter, resume and repertoire list to: dca-ofa@fas.harvard.edu
<http://www.ofa.fas.harvard.edu/music/dca.php>*