

Choral director, Sound Eclectic

The group: Sound Eclectic is a talented, spirited and exciting SATB vocal ensemble of (currently) 20 men and women of all ages, based in Vancouver. Our name comes from our passion for performing in a variety of genres – including classical, jazz, folk, rock, pop and world music. We have sung at benefit concerts in Metro Vancouver and on the Sunshine Coast, at private events and across the local community, including seniors' centres, children's hospices and Christmas markets. We have also performed at the annual Yule Duel in Gastown, winning best vocal performance out of 21 local choirs in its first year.

We rehearse weekly from September through May, every Tuesday evening, in the Cambie area of Vancouver. Every January, the choir attends a weekend residential retreat to kick-start our spring season. Each May, our rehearsals culminate in our annual gala showcase concert, which this year will take place Saturday May 5 at the Cultch Theatre in East Vancouver. Sound Eclectic Choral Association is a registered non-profit society. More information at www.soundeclectic.ca.

The role: Sound Eclectic is seeking a new choral director, following the retirement of director Kathryn Nicholson, who has led the group superbly through its formative first six years. This is a part-time position reporting to the Sound Eclectic Board of Directors, which is comprised of several choir members. Start date: Some responsibilities begin July 1, 2018; rehearsals begin September 4, 2018.

The responsibilities: The director of Sound Eclectic is primarily responsible for:

- Providing artistic direction and leadership of the choir
- Selecting repertoire (with input from the choir members), sourcing sheet music, adjusting arrangements as needed, and recording individual SATB parts for learning purposes
- Auditioning new choir members to meet our high standards
- Leading (and self-accompanied on the piano) all rehearsals and retreat workshops, with the ultimate goal of a successful end-of-year showcase
- Teaching the choir vocal and performance techniques to ensure continual musical improvement
- Hiring accompanying musicians for annual showcase and other performances as needed
- Conducting all choir concerts in a polished, professional and engaging manner
- Participating in four or five annual meetings of the Sound Eclectic Board of Directors throughout the season, and working closely and regularly with the Board on essential decisions
- Sourcing paid community gigs for the choir (approx. four or five in the December holiday season, two of which are already established, and one or two in Spring prior to the annual showcase) by reaching out to local charitable causes and choral organizations, etc.

The new director: The successful applicant for this position will have:

- Extensive experience of and advanced technique in directing choirs and choral concerts to high level, ideally in a variety of musical genres (but in particular classical and jazz); formal music training and education preferred
- Excellent vocal skills and demonstrable vocal teaching ability
- Strong piano skills and ability to lead rehearsals while self-accompanied on the piano
- Deep roots in the local music community and ability to find exciting gigs for the choir
- Computer and recording equipment; ability to record and upload parts to shared drive
- A fun personality, great performance charisma when directing concerts, a wonderful sense of humour and the ability to control 20-plus exuberant singers!

The next steps: Please email soundeclecticensemble@gmail.com with your musical resume together with a cover letter explaining why you would like to direct Sound Eclectic and how you can take the group to its next musical level. Please note: We *strongly* recommend that any interested candidates (in particular any who are not already fully familiar with our work) attend our May 5 concert to see what we are about and assess our standard and the likely “fit” before applying. Tickets are available via www.soundeclectic.ca. Applications will be received until May 11 to allow candidates time after the show to apply. Shortlisted candidates will be invited to an informal interview with the Sound Eclectic recruitment committee.