

Role: Sessional Tutor

Information for Applicants

The Australian Boys Choral Institute is the organisation which administers the Australian Boys Choir. The ABCI is committed to excellence in education and works to promote positive and respectful interactions amongst its diverse membership base. It adheres to the highest professional standards, including the Victorian Child Safety Standards.

There are currently approximately 200 boys training with the Institute, of whom approximately 35 appear nationally and internationally as members of the Australian Boys Choir performing squad.

Singers are placed in training groups according to their level of skill and musical knowledge. Syllabus outcomes are in place across each of these groups, and individual progress is carefully monitored and regularly communicated to parents. The training program is fully documented as far as each singer's progress is concerned, but teachers/conductors of each group plan and implement teaching strategies and repertoire appropriate to the boys in their charge.

Individuals move through four training groups before they are selected for the performing squad. Probationers are students who have passed an audition and who are attending for one semester of preliminary training on Tuesday evenings. The Tyros, who also work on Tuesdays after school, are boys who have successfully completed their probationary period. The Junior Singers rehearse on Friday nights, with small group tutorials held prior to rehearsals from 5.30pm.

Boys from the Institute's first three training groups are involved minimally in performance – generally only for parents and other members of the Institute – as the emphasis in these levels of training is on the acquisition of an appropriate level of musical skill and vocal technique.

Upon successful completion of the Junior Singer syllabus, boys are then promoted to the rank of Senior Singer. Individuals at this level who are skilled enough may be eligible to perform with the Australian Boys Choir performing squad (the principal performing group within the Institute, mainly consisting of Choristers who have successfully completed the other levels of training). The Senior Singers and Squad currently rehearse both on Monday afternoons and Friday evenings. All groups except Probationers attend an intensive residential school during the Summer school vacation. Two residential weekend workshops at other times during the year also include Probationers.

Other groups within the Institute include the Kelly Gang, a training group for Choristers who have left the Choir because of voice change, and the Cambiata training group, for boys whose voices are changing but who have not achieved the rank of Chorister. The Vocal Consort is a mature-age male-voice choir that performs in its own right and with the Australian Boys Choir on tour and at major concerts.

All adult members of the Institute who work closely with the boys must sign and abide by the ABCI Child Safe code of conduct and attend regular Child Safety training sessions.

The ABCI is currently inviting applications from suitably qualified individuals to fill the above-stated vacant position.

Duties

Working flexibly within the overall structure of the Institute, the appointee will be a member of a cooperative team of up to ten music staff and share preparation and delivery of the Institute's educational and performance programs.

The appointee will carry out training and testing duties amongst boys from the training groups of the Institute, monitoring each boy's progress, consulting with senior staff and working as directed by the Artistic Director and/or Director of Training Choirs.

All music staff are ultimately responsible to the Artistic Director, who in turn is held accountable by the Institute Board for staffing, syllabus outcomes and the welfare of students.

Key Selection Criteria

1. Current valid Working with Children accreditation (see www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au)
2. Experience as a choral singer and/or choral conductor to a high level
3. Demonstrated skills in musical literacy (some keyboard skills would be an advantage)
4. Basic understanding of the principles and practice of Kodaly-based programs
5. Ability to maintain detailed records of work and children's progress in an online database
6. Ability to work as part of a team of staff to deliver planned educational outcomes
7. Ability to relate to and earn the respect of children, especially boys

Time Commitment

Rehearsals occupy two or three hours each week throughout the school year, on Tuesday or Friday evenings. Staff are expected to be present ten minutes before & after tutorials delivered.

Music staff are relied upon to facilitate rehearsals and all programs. A weekend workshop of intensive training and rehearsal is held twice each year, generally each May and October.

The annual Summer Music School is held each January, generally in country Victoria or interstate. Junior Singers and above attend for seven days, while Tyros attend for four days.

General staff meetings are held on a quarterly basis, normally at the start of each school term. Meetings last approximately two hours and are remunerated at the staff member's usual rate.

Staff membership involves planning and reporting on a regular basis. Tutors are required to keep records of all tutorials delivered in the Institute's online database.

Attendance at auditions and in-house concerts, and contributing to other programs related to the ABCI training program (i.e. report writing meetings), is required four to six times each year.

Remuneration

An hourly rate equating to 1.2 times the national minimum hourly rate for the appointee's age is currently paid monthly on completion of a timesheet. This rate, plus preparation loading where appropriate, applies to all weekly tutorials delivered, staff meetings and other activities at which staff attendance is required. Workshops attract a daily rate, with food and accommodation provided.

Conditions

Staff are encouraged to pursue development of their skills through further study and in-service programs. The Board endeavours to support such staff development financially. A staff member receiving such support will be expected to report back to the Board on the program undertaken.

Review of each staff member's role and achievements is undertaken through periodic interview with the Artistic Director, resulting in a mutually-agreed written summary of interview. This summary is retained by the Artistic Director and a copy kept by the staff member for their records.

Music staff are required to hold a current Working with Children card or the equivalent (e.g. VIT Registration). Music staff are covered by Workcover.

Applications

Applications are currently being accepted via email only.

These can be submitted to admin@australianboyschoir.com.au.

Applications should include:

- Letter of Application (addressed to Mr Nick Dinopoulos, ABCI Artistic Director)
- Curriculum Vitae (with full employment history and contact details for two referees)

Applications close 5.00pm Friday 13 December 2024.

The successful applicant will begin from the start of Term 1 2025.

Enquiries can be directed to Ms Elizabeth Lindner, ABCI General Manager at admin@australianboyschoir.com.au or 03 9818 4818.

For general information regarding the Australian Boys Choir, please visit our website at www.australianboyschoir.com.au.

The Australian Boys Choir is committed to the maintenance of a Child Safe environment. The care, safety and welfare of students are embedded in policies and procedures which ensure a commitment to zero tolerance of child abuse.