

## Job Opening: Teacher-Conductor, Northwest Girlchoir

April 1, 2024

### First teaching day: Week of September 2, 2024

*One-week Thanksgiving break, two-week winter break, one-week midwinter break, one-week spring break; total 35 teaching weeks. Optional summer camp in July paid as an additional contract.*

**To Apply:** Send a cover letter and resume to Artistic Director Karen Bruno ([karen@northwestgirlchoir.org](mailto:karen@northwestgirlchoir.org)) by **Friday, April 26, 2024.**

Northwest Girlchoir is seeking **two teacher-conductors to join our expanding team at the elementary and middle school level.** The ideal candidate has a passion for teaching youth to develop healthy vocal technique, musicianship, artistry, confidence, and teamwork. The successful candidate will nurture a love of singing and develop each chorister's creativity, music literacy, and vocal technique in a supportive and joyful environment.

The candidate should be interested in working collaboratively within the entire Northwest Girlchoir organization (artistic and administrative staff, 7 choir levels, 250 choristers, grades 1-12). Northwest Girlchoir revolutionizes choral education by rejoicing in students' voices and creativity through embodied music-making. Guided by our commitment to anti-racism, we inspire joy, belonging, and confidence, and cultivate community through shared experience. Our treble choirs welcome and affirm girls and all youth marginalized by gender.

Because all members of a community benefit from equity work, equity is a core value of Northwest Girlchoir. With an intersectional approach, including racial and gender equity, we deliberately and continuously interrogate and dismantle all forms of structural oppression within our organization. Our programs and policies affirm each individual's identity, experience, and heritage, creating a just and welcoming community. Together, we celebrate inclusivity through joyful music-making.

### DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Teach elementary choir once per week or middle school choir twice per week in the late afternoons or evenings. Days and times are dependent upon choir assignment.
- Teach singing, aural skills, score and music reading, and choral performance skills through diverse, high-quality repertoire.
- Teach and conduct the choir in three mainstage concerts per year:
  - Tentative 2024-25 tech and performance schedule:
    - November 23 tech/November 24 concert
    - March 15 tech/March 16 concert
    - June 7 tech/June 8 concert
- Set up the rehearsal room thirty minutes before rehearsal begins; supervise students as they arrive.
- Attend monthly meetings with Artistic Director and other teacher-conductors, at mutually agreeable times, outside of teaching hours.
- Communicate with staff and parents in a timely, clear, and sensitive way by phone/email/in person as appropriate.
- Listen to chorister auditions and assist with placements in spring and late summer.
- Additional (paid) responsibilities include NWGC retreat for all choristers, diversity trainings, auditions, tours/choir events, and community or fund-raising events.

## QUALIFICATIONS

- Bachelor of Music/Music Education degree or higher. Knowledge of and experience using Kodály approach (or Kodály level certification).
- Two or more years working with children in a classroom or group setting. Experience conducting a choir or children's choir preferred.
- Ability to holistically analyze and select quality, diverse repertoire; plan and lead developmentally appropriate rehearsals; manage high behavior expectations for choristers; assess chorister progress; write compelling and educational program notes for parents/audience members.
- Ability to model and teach healthy, embodied singing techniques and knowledge to help singers navigate the changing adolescent voice.
- Model curiosity, collaboration, and compassion within the rehearsal process.
- Possess choir conducting skills to coordinate singers, collaborative pianists, and other musicians during rehearsals and performance.
  - Ease with, or openness to learning, foreign language pronunciation. Comfortable bringing culture-bearers and native language speakers into the classroom.
  - Basic piano keyboard skills.
  - Knowledge of technology for teaching (i.e. projector/sound system, Google classroom, Zoom) — willingness to provide online resources or pre-recorded lessons if necessary.
  - Ability to work independently and as a member of an artistic team.
  - Consistent attendance and punctuality at rehearsals and concerts.
  - Demonstrate a patient and positive attitude in working with children, parents, and colleagues.
  - Strong communication skills (speaking and email) for interacting with choristers, parents, and staff.

## SUPPORT

Teacher-Conductors are supported by a professional collaborative pianist. Additional professional instrumentalists are often available for performances to support the repertoire selected. Karen Bruno, the Artistic Director, is the main support for teaching needs and concerns. The Northwest Girlchoir administrative staff manages enrollment, tuition collection, concert venues and ticketing, fundraising, volunteer recruitment, and weekly parent logistical communications.

## JOB SPECIFICS

### **Employee Status and Hours:**

Regular hourly, part-time, late-August through mid-June. This is a one-year contract position with the possibility of renewal.

### **Compensation and Benefits:**

Pay is dependent on experience and rehearsal length (\$6,000-\$12,000); this rate includes compensation for teaching and prep time.

- Professional Development Stipend (\$300 annually)
- Sick Leave (1 hour earned for every 40 hours worked)
- Free/Reimbursed Parking (for rehearsals and concerts)
- Comp Tickets to Concerts (8 per year for family/friends)

**Reports to:**

Karen Bruno, Artistic Director

**Job Location:**

Rehearsals take place at North Seattle Church, 2150 N. 122<sup>nd</sup> St., Seattle, 98133 (just west of I-5, at Haller Lake). There is free, off-street parking at our teaching location. Public concerts are at venues such as Town Hall Seattle, Everett Civic Auditorium, Seattle churches, and Benaroya Hall.

Northwest Girlchoir is an equal opportunity employer that values diversity at all levels. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, sex, sexual orientation, gender, ethnicity, marital status, disability, or religious belief. Successful candidates must pass a Criminal Records Check and have legal status to work in the USA.

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**More Information:**

[www.northwestgirlchoir.org](http://www.northwestgirlchoir.org), <https://www.youtube.com/northwestgirlchoir>