
EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

CONDUCTOR

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA CHORAL SOCIETY (UWACS)

BACKGROUND

The University of Western Australia Choral Society (UWACS) is one of the longest continuously performing amateur choirs in Australia, having been formed in 1931 with 70 members. For 21 years, the UWACS choir (the Choir) performed mainly part songs and cantata-length works before its first major choral work (*Elijah*) was performed in 1952. From 1953 until 1980, the Choir performed in collaboration with the ABC and its orchestra, the WA Symphony Orchestra. Since 1981, UWACS has been an independent incorporated association, whilst still retaining close ties with the University of Western Australia (UWA). UWACS became a registered charity in 2018.

The Choir performs in venues such as St Mary's Cathedral and the magnificent Winthrop Hall at UWA with approximately 100 singers. Performances have included works such as Verdi's *Requiem*, Orff's *Carmina Burana*, Beethoven's *Choral Symphony*, Handel's *Messiah*, Bach's *Christmas Oratorio*, Vaughan Williams' *A Sea Symphony*, Rutter's *Requiem* and *Magnificat*, Mozart's *Requiem* and, most recently, Elgar's *Sea Pictures*. The Choir also collaborates with other musical entities, including The UWA Conservatorium of Music (Britten's *War Requiem*) and Aquinas's Schola Cantorum. We are currently rehearsing Mozart's *Coronation Mass* and Rutter's *Gloria* for the Christmas concert.

THE POSITION

The current Conductor Kristin Bowtell has announced his retirement due to increasing work demands as a lawyer with the Director of Public Prosecutions for WA. Therefore, UWACS is seeking expressions of interest in the position of Conductor of UWACS. It is seeking an energetic, personable and musically talented person to develop further and enhance the reputation of the UWACS Choir as a significant musical force in Western Australia. The Conductor will be appointed ideally with a start date of January-2026. However, an earlier start date may be negotiated.

The Conductor is responsible to the members of UWACS through its committee (the Committee), which (subject to decisions made at a general meeting of members) has decision-making responsibility for all matters pertaining to the functioning of UWACS and the Choir.



REMUNERATION

Remuneration will be in accordance with the Australian National Choral Association (ANCA) guidelines.

THE SELECTION PROCESS

Expressions of interest are invited from suitable people, to be received by no later than COB Friday 17 October 2025. Applicants should submit a curriculum vitae, with a covering letter that addresses the selection criteria set out in the position description, but without necessarily responding to each one as a separate entity.

Full details of the position requirements are below. Applicants should also access the UWACS website (www.uwacs.com.au) for detailed information about UWACS and to gain access to the constitution.

Applications should be sent to: president@uwacs.com.au.

Local applicants may be invited to take a rehearsal of the choir to demonstrate their expertise. Applicants from interstate or overseas may be invited to provide a recorded excerpt of a performance and a rehearsal that they conduct.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Should you wish to discuss any aspect of the position or the selection process, please contact the President of UWACS Gillian King on 0417 177 544 or by email on: president@uwacs.com.au

Position Description **CONDUCTOR**

In line with the UWACS constitution, the Conductor is responsible to its members through the Committee.

Responsibilities

- Conducting weekly rehearsals in a positive manner
- Working with an accompanist
- Contributing to the selection of a vibrant and creative musical program, taking into account the capabilities of the Choir and the available resources
- Auditioning Choir members
- Developing the Choir's musical and vocal skills and knowledge
- Participating in the selection of suitable soloists, orchestral players and accompanists
- Rehearsing soloists and the orchestra in preparation for performances
- Conducting performances
- Attending and participating in Committee meetings in an ex-officio capacity
- Working collaboratively with the Committee to ensure that UWACS achieves its goals and objectives

Essential criteria for selection

- Experience in choral conducting, including conducting large choirs
- Experience in conducting orchestras of varying sizes
- Good interpersonal skills
- Ability to work well with professional musicians, soloists and accompanists
- Ability to attend meetings of and work with a volunteer committee
- Ability to set musical direction, in collaboration with the Committee
- Availability to rehearse on Wednesday evenings, with some additional rehearsals prior to performances
- Ability to develop the Choir's musical and vocal skills and knowledge

Desirable criteria for selection

- Ability to sing and to demonstrate vocal technique
- Knowledge of musical performers, in order to be able to identify and select soloists and orchestral musicians
- Working knowledge of copyright requirements
- Willingness to assist the Committee to develop UWACS' connections within UWA