



Teacher-Conductor for 5th-8th Grade Choir 2024-2025 Season

Days of Service: Tuesday and/or Wednesday late afternoons and early evenings.

First Rehearsal: The week of September 2nd

BYC follows the BSD calendar and takes the following breaks: one-week Thanksgiving break, two-week winter break, one-week midwinter break, one-week spring break.

To Apply: Send a cover letter and resume to Managing Artistic Director Kayla Johnson
(kayla@bellevueyouthchoirs.org)

Applicants are encouraged to submit their materials as soon as possible.

Job Specifics: BYC seeks an experienced elementary or middle school choral director with Kodály background to join our team and work with choristers between 5th and 8th grade. The ideal candidate is collaborative and able to work with the entire Bellevue Youth Choirs organization, has a passion for youth choral education, and the ability to teach healthy vocal technique, musicianship, artistry, and teamwork through diverse repertoire selections and engaging classroom activities.

About BYC: Bellevue Youth Choirs (BYC) is a non-profit organization that was founded in 2012 and is comprised of a variety of choir levels serving youth in Pre-K through 12th grade from the greater Bellevue area. Choristers learn musicianship, vocal technique, performance skills, and participate in mainstage concerts, outreach and community events, and collaborations with the finest musicians and choral groups. The auditioned choirs participate in regional choral festivals and tours.

Mission Statement: The mission of Bellevue Youth Choirs is to create a joyful, inclusive musical community for youth by providing exemplary musicianship training and exciting performance opportunities.

Rehearsals: Times TBD. Rehearsals take place on Tuesday and/or Wednesday late afternoons and early evenings and range from 1.5 to 2 hrs.

Please note we have a modified rehearsal schedule the three weeks prior to a concert. Your choir may start or end at slightly different times. Additional teaching time will be compensated.

Primary Responsibilities:

- Teach rehearsals with a provided accompanist.
- Arrive 20 minutes prior to rehearsal to prepare for choristers.
- Plan lessons that achieve the following:
 - Thoughtfully select diverse repertoire that is culturally appropriate and supports choristers' musical growth.
 - Teach fundamentals of healthy vocal technique including singing in head voice at an appropriate volume.

- Teach fundamentals of rhythm, solfege, IPA, and other musicianship skills outlined in BYC's chorister evaluations.
- Foster a sense of joy in communal music making through fun repertoire and games.
- Be a confident vocal model for students in rehearsal.
- Serve as a role model (rehearsal technique, mutual respect, musical/vocal) for choristers in all choir levels.
- Teach and conduct the choir in three mainstage concerts per year. Tentative dates: December 7th, March 22nd, June 14th
 - At concerts, oversee your ensemble backstage with the assistance of parent volunteers.
- Attend monthly staff meetings (virtual) at mutually agreeable times.
- Provide program notes for each concert detailing why repertoire was selected and what choristers are learning.
- Provide practice recordings for your choir each concert in the form of Youtube links or short instructional videos from rehearsal uploaded to the shared parent folder.
- Communicate with choristers, parents, and staff about behavior expectations, attendance, and other matters pertaining to chorister and director needs.
- Evaluate chorister progress, discuss eligible choristers for promotion with the AD, and provide chorister evaluations to chorister families in the spring.
- Assist with recruitment and retention.

Qualifications:

- Bachelor of Music/Music Education degree or higher. Knowledge of and experience using Kodály approach.
- Passion for early childhood music education.
- Prior experience teaching children in a classroom setting. Experience with choral music and conducting a children's choir preferred.
- Comfortable with teaching music in foreign languages.
- Ability to analyze and select appropriate and diverse repertoire that supports the needs of the students and the mission of the program. Be able to write effectively why the repertoire was chosen and what students are learning for program notes.
- Ability to plan and lead developmentally appropriate rehearsals.
- Ability to appropriately manage student behaviors, communicate when needed with families, and maintain high behavior expectations for choristers.
- Ability to model and teach healthy vocal technique including lightly singing in head voice, blending with others, and breathing techniques.
- Ability to conduct an ensemble.
- Collaborative nature to work with other BYC teachers, pianists, and instrumentalists during the rehearsal process and concerts.
- Effective and responsive communication skills for working with choristers, parents and staff in a timely manner.
- A desire to see BYC grow and thrive and to help foster a greater sense of community and belonging.

Support: Directors are supported by a professional collaborative pianist. Additional professional instrumentalists are often added to Mainstage performances.

Kayla Johnson is the main support for teaching needs and concerns and will check in at least once per concert program.

Employee Status:

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

Compensation:

Director pay - \$50 per hour for rehearsals plus paid planning time.

Paid planning includes time for repertoire selection, lesson planning, program notes once per concert, communication with families, and set-up/tear-down time.

Additional pay: 1 hour per month for staff meetings, 4 hours paid for each concert, and tours and outreach as needed.

Reports to:

Managing Artistic Director – Kayla Johnson

Job Location:

Rehearsals are at Cross of Christ Church in Bellevue (411 156th Ave NE, Bellevue, WA 98007)

Concert locations TBD

Bellevue Youth Choirs 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, transgender status, 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.bellevueyouthchoirs.org

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