



Prima Choir Co-Director 2024-2025 Season

Job Opening, Bellevue Youth Choirs: Prima Choir (1st-2nd Grade)

Days of Service: Teaching Assistant on Tuesdays, Choir Director on Wednesdays

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)

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

Job Specifics: BYC seeks an experienced elementary choral director with Kodály background to join our team and work with our 1st and 2nd Grade choir in collaboration with the current director Heidi McIlroy. The hired director would act as a teaching assistant to Heidi during Tuesday rehearsals, and would be the director on Wednesdays with a provided accompanist. This hired director will collaborate with Heidi to plan repertoire and lessons for Prima choir.

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: (may change slightly in timing)

Tentatively - Tuesdays from 5:50-6:50pm as the teaching assistant for current director Heidi McIlroy

Wednesdays from 4:50-5:50pm as the director with the option of adding a second section from

6-7pm if there was enough chorister interest.

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:

- Provide classroom assistance for Mrs. Heidi McIlroy during Prima rehearsal on Tuesdays from 5:50 – 6:50pm (tentative).
- Teach Prima rehearsal on Wednesdays from 4:50-5:50pm (tentative) with a provided accompanist. (If there is enough demand, a second section of Wednesday Prima choir may be added.)
- Arrive 20 minutes prior to rehearsal to prepare for choristers.
- Plan lessons with co-teacher Heidi McIlroy 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.
- Teach fundamentals of rhythm and solfege.
- 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 (done in collaboration with Heidi McIlroy)
- 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.
- 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.
- Plan and lead developmentally appropriate rehearsals in tandem with Heidi McIlroy.
- 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.
- Collaborate 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:

Teaching Assistant pay - \$35 per hour for Tuesday rehearsals (1 hr per week)

Director pay - \$50 per hour for Wednesday rehearsals plus 1 hour of paid planning per week that 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 and 3.5 hours paid for each concert at the director rate.

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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