

# Musical Director Job Description

Ipswich Gilbert & Sullivan Society is seeking a new musical director to lead the choir for concerts and musical theatre shows. It's an exciting time to be joining us, as we're open to new musical ideas and expansion of our musical styles. You'll also have access to our previous repertoire and will have the committee's assistance in sourcing works.

We're eager to hear from anyone who has lots of enthusiasm and an interest in choral music, light opera, and musical theatre. We're not expecting you to have a musical degree or even previous experience conducting. Music students and anyone who has previously worked as an accompanist are strongly encouraged to apply.

## Responsibilities:

- Select musical repertoire
- Lead rehearsals and teach repertoire
- Conduct choir and orchestra for concerts and shows
- Oversee all musical aspects of rehearsals, concerts and shows
- Attend occasional committee meetings to discuss rehearsals, concert planning and repertoire
- Audition new members and soloists
- Work closely with show director and stage manager to put on shows
- Sourcing or composing extra material for shows
- Introducing music at concerts when there is no programme (or delegating this to chairperson)
- Working with available resources and time constraints to ensure group is concert-ready
- Possibly be a key-holder for rehearsal venues

## Skills & Experience:

- Excellent musicianship
- Experience working with choirs
- Experience of working in music productions
- Able to play piano if necessary (though an accompanist will usually be present)
- Creativity and resourcefulness
- Leadership, organisation and communication skills

## Schedule:

- Monday night rehearsals yearly
- Thursday night rehearsals for shows in summer
- One week of shows in late October (Autumn half-term break)
- Several concerts in spring and early summer
- Occasional promotional events

## Salary:

Compensation is a small stipend of £50 per rehearsal and £65 for a concert. For the show we normally pay a single fee of £1200.

## Possible Job Share:

Please note that if two suitable candidates wanted to split the role into choir concerts and musical shows, we would be happy to take on both.

## About Ipswich G&S:

<http://www.ipswichgands.org.uk/> – Please also see social media profiles linked to get a better idea of what we do.

## Concert Season:

The concert season typically has up to six concerts in April – July, and another one or two just before Christmas. The MD selects the music, making (or sourcing) the appropriate musical arrangements, and takes weekly rehearsals from January to have the choir up to standard in time for the first concert. Potential solos are listed in a folder and those interested may put their names down: they will then be invited to sing at a rehearsal and the MD will select the best one to perform in the concerts. This is very much the MD's decision, and is not subject to bribing/pleading!

For the concerts themselves the MD will decide the programme in the week before the concert and arrange for it to be circulated to participants. At the concert he/she will introduce the items, as a printed programme is not produced.

Music for the concerts is a wide mix of styles, but G&S music will generally be included, not least because it provides an opportunity to advertise the forthcoming show.

## Show:

It is important that the MD works closely with the Show Director (and Stage Manager, once the show gets to the theatre), as these are important relationships that contribute towards the overall success.

Early on in the year the MD will select audition pieces (and agree them with the Show Director), with the ensuing auditions being held in the spring. Following the auditions the MD and Show Director will decide the cast for the show based upon that, and usually an independent member of the Society is also present to ensure fair play and contribute to the discussion (probably the person who has organised the auditions).

Rehearsals commence late June/early July, and to start with the MD rehearses the music – with all on Mondays and with soloists only on Thursdays. These then become floor rehearsals: here the Show Director is in charge, but the MD will work alongside him/her, correcting music as necessary. The MD is responsible for producing any additional music as required ie. fanfares, scoring a number inserted from another show, any bespoke play-off music etc.

The orchestral parts are ordered by a Society member. They will give them to the MD once received, and the MD must ensure that they are collected and returned once the final performance has ended.

The orchestra is sourced (in conjunction with the MD) by the Orchestral Secretary. Prior to the week of the show (usually the Monday before) the MD will conduct a rehearsal for choir and orchestra together: this is primarily for the benefit of the orchestra and gives him/her the opportunity to talk through what is happening in terms of the music.

Come the week of the show the MD conducts all rehearsals/performances.

## Applications:

To apply, please write a quick introduction to yourself and tell us what ideas you have for the society in the future. Send applications to Angela at [randall.angela@gmail.com](mailto:randall.angela@gmail.com).

We expect to hold an audition evening for you with the choir to see how you plan to work with us and if it is a good fit.