**Sheffield Socialist Choir: Musical Director Recruitment 2021**

**Job Description**

Sheffield Socialist Choir is looking to recruit a new Musical Director. Our choir has been going for over 30 years, with a repertoire that reflects our strong commitment to freedom, equality, justice, peace and environmental sustainability around the world. We sing at solidarity events, street demonstrations, and the annual Street Choirs Festival. In addition, we are part of the Campaign Choirs Network. This national movement and network of choirs sings about issues for a fairer world; singing for change, and when possible we join others on the street. occasionally organise our own concerts as well as workshops open to other singers.

The job will be shared with our current MD, Janet Wood. We sing a capella, usually in four-part harmonies. We do not hold auditions for new members, and learn by ear rather than from written music. We also encourage members to use sound files to practise in between sessions. Practical issues for running the choir are handled by a committee plus individual choir members.

The job will involve:

* Leading weekly sessions: held Thursday evenings during term-times, 19.30-21.30, at Old Sharrow Junior School, South View Road, Sharrow, Sheffield S7 1DB. Other venues maybe used.
* Sharing the role with our current MD, Janet Wood, preferably in 'blocks' of several weeks, rather than in alternate weeks.
* Helping choir members develop their singing and performance abilities with confidence.
* Liaising with Janet and with the choir members over repertoire: towards the end of the summer term, we allocate half a session to a discussion on repertoire, including which issues to focus on, and any new songs or old ones to revive which choir members wish to suggest.
* Communicating with choir members in advance on the repertoire in forthcoming weekly sessions.
* Developing arrangements and, if possible, new songs on themes suitable for our choir.
* Recording sound files and producing documents with lyrics; liaising with the choir members who manage the website and the projector used at our weekly sessions; providing music scores for photocopying.
* Being available from time to time to lead the choir at campaign gigs, street singing, and other performances.
* Occasionally running workshops which, the choir organises and are open to other singers.
* Liaising with the choir committee over any issues regarding the organisation of the choir, including any scheduled sessions for which a replacement MD is needed, and attending our AGM (half a session, held in May/June), and any other general meetings as possible.

**Remuneration**

The choir pays an hourly rate for the weekly sessions, workshops, plus preparation, at Musicians Union rates, as well as any travel expenses. We also pay a fee and travel expenses for leading us at gigs/performances and other events such as the annual weekend Street Choirs Festival, as separately negotiated. We will consider reimbursing for other expenses, such as photocopying and professional development, upon production of receipts. Payments are made upon receipt of invoices. Our Musical Directors are self-employed and are therefore responsible for paying their own income tax and National Insurance Contributions. We do not pay separately for leave.

**Person Specification**

**Essential qualifications/experience** include:

* Musical Director of a choir (although not essential if candidate has teaching experience). The choir will be willing to contribute financially to training and help in finding a suitable mentor)
* Leading a choir whose members have a wide variety of musical abilities.
* Able to communicate with enthusiasm, encouragement and good humour, to bring out the best in each choir member.
* Sharing the values of the choir for freedom, justice, peace, and environmental sustainability around the world.
* Able to arrange songs in four-part harmonies.
* Able to produce sound files and Word documents.
* Living in or relatively near Sheffield: i.e. willing and able to travel for weekly sessions as well as to support gigs/street singing on other days from time to time.
* Willing to work in collaboration with the choir committee and other members who do the background organisation.
* Willing to keep musical and choir leadership skills up-to-date through appropriate professional development.

**Desirable elements** include:

* Able to write/compose new songs on themes relevant to our choir.
* Willing to come to choir social events such as the New Year and summer parties.
* Experience of leading singing sessions using Zoom and/or other online resources