



## Just Voices – An Activist Choir    **JOB POSTING CHOIR DIRECTOR**

<b>Job Title:</b>	Choir Director	<b>Location:</b>	Ottawa
<b>Starting date:</b>	September 1, 2020	<b>Honorarium:</b>	\$3,000 (Sept - June)*
<b>Email:</b>	<b>JVHiring20@gmail.com</b>	<b>Subject:</b>	Choir Director Position

**Applications accepted until:** March 23, 2020

Just Voices is a community-oriented activist choir in Ottawa, on unceded Algonquin territory. We use our voices to inspire social change and contribute to movements for social and environmental justice, racial and gender equality, diversity, and struggles against violence, war and poverty. We seek to challenge the status quo through engaging and energizing music, and we encourage the wider community to join us in raising our voices and opening our minds to the possibility of a better world.

Choir members share a commitment to social and environmental justice and have some musical or introductory vocal abilities. Members are not required to audition or to read music. However, it is expected that members learn and carry their part. We are an enthusiastic, caring and supportive amateur choir that welcomes singers from diverse backgrounds. Along with English, we sing in several other languages. As a community, our priority is singing music that makes a difference and sounding good while we do it.

### **Role and Responsibilities**

- Lead weekly evening rehearsals (Wednesdays from 7 to 9 pm at the Bronson Centre);
- In collaboration with the Repertoire Committee, agree on a repertoire that reflects the views, mission and musical capabilities of the choir (two meetings a year);
- Provide overall musical direction, challenging the choir musically while mindful of the mixed level nature of the choir;
- Prepare the choir for concerts, gigs, small ensembles and solos;
- Conduct two concerts and at least two gigs per year;
- Attend monthly one-hour board meetings and participate in discussions related to governance, strategic planning, concert/gig preparations, and current issues such as cultural appropriation.



### **Qualifications/Skills**

- Agree with our mission and values;
- Strong musical background and experience with organizing warm-ups and rehearsals;
- Ability to lead in a collaborative, positive, participatory and democratic manner;
- Proven experience with leading a mixed level choral group, including the ability to sing or play the different parts;
- Ability to adjust arrangements to meet the vocal needs of the choir;
- Ability to teach the choir how to communicate the spirit of the song;
- Planning skills and the ability to anticipate and solve problems;
- Patience and enthusiasm.

### **Assets**

- Experience in teaching adults (preferably singing/music) and in being part of a choir;
- Sensitivity to cultural appropriation and being comfortable discussing this issue with the choir and learning about it;
- Some knowledge of French, Spanish, and/or other languages;
- Experience in arranging music, including lyrics;
- Good sense of humour.

\*The choir is active from September to June, usually with concerts in the middle of December and the middle of June. Other smaller gigs occur throughout the year. Time commitment will vary (higher in the lead-up to concerts or gigs and repertoire committee meetings) but on average is 5 hours a week.