LEVEL I CHORAL DIRECTOR

Reporting to the San Francisco Girls Chorus’ Artistic Director, the Level I Director is responsible for teaching and preparing repertoire and leading performances for Level I of SFGC’s Chorus School.

The Chorus School, which annually serves more than 350 girls and young women, ages 4 to 18, from the greater Bay Area, provides a comprehensive music education that begins with a Prep program for choristers ages 4 – 7, and continues through four Levels of progressively challenging training. Upon graduation from the Chorus School at the end of Level IV, singers are eligible to audition for SFGC’s GRAMMY Award-winning Premier Ensemble, led by Artistic Director, Valérie Sainte-Agathe.

This position will lead Level I at SFGC’s Hayes Valley, SF location and Emeryville location in the East Bay. For Fall 2021, SFGC will be operating in a hybrid model, with half of rehearsals online and half of rehearsals in-person.

GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Select, teach and conduct a variety of choral repertoire, implement curriculum and set goals for singers in Level I (typically ages 7-11) of the SFGC Chorus School; repertoire should be balanced to provide a variety of choral repertoire from various periods of music history, including contemporary and commissioned works; all repertoire is reviewed by the Artistic Director prior to final selection
- Teach and model healthy vocal technique, including breath support and appropriate singing posture
- Coordinate voice teaching with the SFGC Director of Voice Studies, integrating ensemble and solo repertoire in warm-ups and other vocal coaching sessions
- Integrate music theory and sight singing curricula into the regular rehearsal schedule, working collaboratively with SFGC’s Music Theory Instructors
- Provide opportunities for choristers to explore the dramatic elements of repertoire, and develop their physicality and expressivity in performance, in partnership with SFGC’s dramaturg and movement coaches
- Select and/or provide choristers for collaborations with other arts organizations; teach and prepare music for these collaborations, with guidance from the Artistic Director. Attend rehearsals and performances with choristers
- Plan rehearsals and activities for Level I camps; attend and teach at the annual Day Camp and the week-long Away Camp in Healdsburg
- Regularly communicate with choristers and families about Chorus School and Level I activities and schedules
- Provide guidance to Chorus families about SFGC’s program expectations and responsibilities, including each chorister’s commitment to learning and attendance at all rehearsals and performances
- Hold annual parent-chorister conferences to discuss musical growth and learning, as well as expectations for Chorus School promotion
- Update and maintain records of Level I choristers, including attendance, information on parent conferences and chorister progress

Updated July 2021
• Prepare semi-annual Chorister Repertoire Evaluations and Progress Reports
• Attend San Francisco and East Bay Chorus School auditions held throughout the year
• Attend monthly faculty meetings, camp meetings, and other meetings relating to the Chorus School
• Arrive at venue at least 15 minutes before rehearsal and be prepared to stay 15 minutes after

OTHER

• Directors may be asked to conduct other levels during special rehearsals or performances
• Attend a one-hour, weekly meeting with the Artistic Director and other Level Directors on Tuesday afternoons

QUALIFICATIONS:
• B.A. in Music or Music Education, with emphasis on vocal pedagogy and/or choral conducting; Master's Degree preferred
• Experience and passion for working with young singers.
• Understanding of and proficiency in vocal technique, especially for young female voices.
• Thorough knowledge of classical and concert music repertoire.

POSITION:
The Level I Director is a 20-hour per week, 38 weeks per year (Sep - May), nonexempt position. Additional hours may be assigned.

The Level I Fall 2021 schedule is as follows:
• Monday, 4:00-5:30pm (virtual)
• Wednesday, 4:00-5:30pm (virtual)
• Thursday, 4:00-6:00pm (in person in Hayes Valley)
• Friday, 4:00-6:00pm (in person in Emeryville)

In addition to hours teaching the weekly work hours include:
Music prep time; administrative tasks; repertoire research; meetings with Artistic Director; faculty meetings; concerts and special performances; parent meetings; and tutoring support for individuals or small groups, auditions.

COMPENSATION:
Starting compensation will be $40 per hour. Compensation package includes employer-sponsored health, dental, vision, and long-term disability insurance, flexible spending plan, and optional 403(b) retirement plan.

TO APPLY:
Email a brief cover letter, resume, and a list of three professional references to Valérie Sainte-Agathe, vsainte-agathe@sfgirlschorus.org, and include the job title in the subject line. Applications may also be mailed to: San Francisco Girls Chorus, 44 Page Street, Suite 200, San Francisco, CA 94102. No phone calls, please.

The San Francisco Girls Chorus is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, age, national origin, disability, marital status, or sexual orientation.

Updated July 2021