

BRUSSELS CHORAL SOCIETY – CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR MUSICAL DIRECTOR

The Brussels Choral Society (BCS) is currently looking for a new Musical Director

The BCS is a well-established, Brussels-based choir constituted as a registered not-for-profit association (ASBL) run by volunteers but supported by selected remunerated musical professionals.

Founded in 1979, the BCS is the largest amateur symphony choir in Belgium. Truly an international ensemble, the choir consists of approx. 120 auditioned members, representing some 25 different nationalities. BCS singers come from all walks of life and share a common passion for choral music. The BCS aims to perform at least three concerts per year, to the highest possible standards, and works with international conductors, soloists and orchestras.

The BCS performs a wide range of works with particular emphasis on the great symphonic choral repertoire of the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries. The past few years have seen the BCS perform a remarkable variety of works, balancing the much-loved classics with more recent and unexpected discoveries, maintaining a freshness and dynamism for audiences and singers alike. The choir is serious about its craft, but also likes to have fun, socialise and create a vibrant community through its music.

The choir rehearses on Thursdays from 19h30 to 22h00 at École Saint Boniface, rue du Conseil 59, 1050 Ixelles, with a break in the summer between late June and late August. Rehearsals are mainly held in English with a professional accompanist.

The Musical Director will act as a self-employed professional, as agreed with the BCS Board through a contract of services with the responsibilities and qualifications outlined below. Following a one-year probationary period, the successful candidate will receive a three-year contract of services, which will be open to extension/renewal.

Responsibilities of the Musical Director

The BCS is managed by a Board and an Executive Committee (ExCom), elected annually from among the members, both of which are advised by a musical team. The Musical Director leads the musical team and works with that team, to:

- support the BCS Board to plan the concert season and prepare the choir for partnerships with conductors, orchestras and other choirs;
- maintain and build on the artistic quality of the choir in order to achieve the standard required for performance

Conductors of BCS concerts are decided by the Board on a case-by-case basis. The conductor may be the Musical Director (depending on the aspirations and accomplishments of the person selected) or may be a conductor from outside BCS. The choir aims to vary orchestras and conductors in order to provide members with a variety of musical experiences.

The Musical Director is generally invited to attend ExCom and Board meetings.

Qualifications and Experience

Suitable candidates should have the following minimum qualifications and experience:

- A Bachelors or Masters degree (or equivalent) in music from a recognised university/college or conservatoire.

- Possess very good knowledge and experience of choral conducting, with a qualification in this area being a distinct advantage.
- A detailed knowledge of the symphonic and general choral repertoire.
- Proven experience of preparing choirs to perform at a high level.
- Sound knowledge of vocal training and choral singing technique.
- Experience in orchestral conducting would be an advantage.
- The ability to conduct rehearsals in English. Knowledge of French would be an advantage.

In addition, BCS requires an MD with:

- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills.
- Very good leadership, team-work and collaboration skills.
- The ability to inspire and motivate the choir to perform at high levels.
- The capacity to network with the wider musical community in Belgium and beyond.

Remuneration

Details are subject to negotiation with the successful candidate and will take account of the successful candidate's qualifications and experience.

Selection Procedure

The process will involve two steps:

- 1) Suitable candidates will be invited to an interview with a selection panel appointed by the BCS Board. The panel will be chaired by the BCS President.
- 2) The selection panel will then shortlist candidates to engage in the final stage which will involve an audition with the singing members of the choir for one hour. The audition will consist of:
 - Rehearsal warm-up;
 - One short piece chosen by the candidate;
 - One piece known to the choir, which all short-listed candidates will have to rehearse.

More information about the choir along with a full list of previous concerts, including video recordings of choir performances, can be found on the website www.brusselschoralsociety.com.

Candidates are kindly invited to send their CV together with a motivation letter and the names of two referees to the BCS President, Ms Levke King, president@brusselschoralsociety.com by 9 September 2025

Interviews are likely to be held in late September / early October, and auditions will be scheduled later in October and in November 2025.

The appointment will ideally be made from January 2026 and the starting date agreed depending on the availability of the candidate.