

Choral Director (Senior Choir)

Contract: Sessional, Fixed Term (30 sessions per academic year)

Department: Learning & Participation

Location: Portsmouth Guildhall

Fee: £68.50 per session - plus £45.60/h for additional performance and meeting hours - freelance contract

Start Date: September 2026

Application Deadline: 12pm Wednesday 26th August

Interview date: Wednesday 2nd September

About the Role

We are seeking an enthusiastic, experienced and inspiring **Choir Leader** to lead a new weekly youth choir for young people aged **13–18**. The choir will be funded by the Portsmouth Music Hub and will be a core part of their music offer in the city.

Sessions will be 1h long and there will be a pianist in the room if needed. The choir will run on Monday afternoons/evenings in term-time at Portsmouth Guildhall.

This choir will provide a welcoming, inclusive, and supportive environment where singers can develop their vocal technique, musicianship, confidence and performance skills. Alongside fostering enjoyment and participation, the choir will maintain ambitious artistic standards, supporting young people to progress into regional and national youth choirs, youth music academies, conservatoire junior departments and other musical opportunities.

The successful candidate will be passionate about youth music-making, committed to excellence, and able to inspire young singers of varying abilities to achieve their full potential.

Key Responsibilities

Musical Leadership

- Plan and deliver engaging weekly rehearsals.
- Develop singers' vocal technique, musicianship, sight-reading, ensemble awareness, and performance confidence.
- Select and lead a varied and challenging repertoire appropriate for young voices.
- Promote healthy vocal development and effective rehearsal habits.
- Prepare the choir for a minimum of **three public performances each year**.

- Identify and nurture emerging talent, providing guidance and preparation for auditions and progression opportunities.

Safeguarding & Welfare

- Promote and safeguard the welfare of all participants.
- Create a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment for young people aged 13–18.
- Adhere to all safeguarding, health and safety, and equality policies and procedures.
- Respond appropriately to safeguarding concerns and report issues in line with organisational requirements.
- Maintain professional boundaries and contribute to the positive wellbeing of participants.

About You

You will have experience leading youth choirs, vocal ensembles, or community singing groups and be an excellent communicator with strong musical leadership skills. You will be able to balance accessibility with high expectations, creating an environment where all young people can thrive while providing clear progression pathways for those with advanced aspirations.

Person Specification

Essential	Desirable
Experience developing singers' vocal technique and musicianship	Formal music training or qualification
Ability to lead ambitious, high-quality choral rehearsals	Experience working with youth choirs
Knowledge of vocal health and age-appropriate vocal development	Existing links with music hubs, youth choirs, music academies or conservatoires
Commitment to equality, diversity, inclusion, and youth wellbeing	Experience arranging repertoire and directing public performances
Knowledge of safeguarding responsibilities when working with children and young people.	Experience evaluating youth activities
Excellent communication and interpersonal skills	
Ability to work independently and manage sessions effectively	

The successful candidate will be required to undergo an Enhanced DBS check.

How to apply

Please send a cover letter and CV to hello@thebaseguildhall.com by 12pm on Wednesday 26th August 2026.

If you would like to discuss the role, please contact Jaz Manville (jaz.manville@portsmouthguildhall.org.uk)

Please note, we are also recruiting for a Choral Director (Junior Choir). These roles could be combined for the right candidate

Choir Director (Junior Choir) – Sessional Contract

Contract: Sessional, Fixed Term (33 sessions per academic year)

Department: Learning & Participation

Location: Portsmouth Guildhall

Fee: £68.50 per session - plus £45.60/h for additional performance and meeting hours - freelance contract

Start Date: September/October 2026

Application Deadline: 12pm Wednesday 26th August

Interview date: Wednesday 2nd September

About the Role

We are seeking an enthusiastic, nurturing, and inspiring **Choir Leader** to lead a weekly choir for children aged **8–12**. The choir will be funded by the Portsmouth Music Hub and will be a core part of their music offer in the city.

Sessions will be up to 1h long and there will be a music assistant in the room to help. The choir will run on Monday afternoons/evenings in term-time at Portsmouth Guildhall.

The choir's primary focus is to develop strong foundations in **choral singing, vocal technique and confidence** whilst creating a fun, welcoming and supportive environment where every child feels valued and able to thrive. Through engaging rehearsals and high-quality musical experiences, the Choir Leader will foster a love of singing, encourage friendships and teamwork, and support the wellbeing and personal development of participants.

Particular emphasis will be placed on encouraging children who may be shy, anxious, or new to singing, helping them build confidence and find their voice in a supportive group setting.

Key Responsibilities

Musical Leadership

- Plan and deliver engaging weekly rehearsals for children aged 8–12.
- Develop age-appropriate vocal technique, musicianship, listening skills, and ensemble singing.
- Introduce a broad and exciting repertoire that inspires creativity and enjoyment.
- Build confidence through performance opportunities and positive reinforcement.
- Prepare the choir for a minimum of **three public performances each year**.
- Encourage progression and a lifelong enjoyment of singing and music-making.

Pastoral Care & Inclusion

- Create a welcoming, inclusive, and supportive environment
- where every child feels safe, respected, and able to participate.
- Encourage and nurture children who may be shy, nervous, or lacking confidence, celebrating individual progress and achievement.
- Foster positive relationships, teamwork, resilience, and a sense of belonging amongst participants.
- Use positive reinforcement and age-appropriate teaching methods to ensure all children experience success and enjoyment.
- Adapt activities to meet the needs of a diverse range of learners and abilities.

- Support children's emotional wellbeing and recognise the importance of music as a tool for confidence-building, self-expression, and personal development.

Safeguarding & Welfare

- Promote and safeguard the welfare of all participants.
- Adhere to organisational safeguarding, health and safety, and equality policies and procedures.
- Respond appropriately to any safeguarding concerns and report them in line with organisational requirements.
- Maintain professional boundaries and act as a positive role model at all times.

About You

You will be an experienced choir leader, music practitioner, or vocal tutor who enjoys working with children and is passionate about creating joyful, high-quality musical experiences. You will be skilled at building confidence in young singers, particularly those who may be hesitant to participate, ensuring every child feels encouraged, supported and empowered to succeed.

Person Specification

Essential	Desirable
Experience developing singers' vocal technique and musicianship	Formal music training or qualification
Ability to lead youth choral rehearsals	Experience working with children under 13s
Knowledge of vocal health and age-appropriate vocal development	Experience choosing repertoire and directing public performances
Commitment to equality, diversity, inclusion, and youth wellbeing	Experience evaluating youth activities
Knowledge of safeguarding responsibilities when working with children and young people.	
Excellent communication and interpersonal skills	
Ability to work independently and manage sessions effectively	

The successful candidate will be required to undergo an Enhanced DBS check.

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