

STAFF SINGER

Position Description

Position: Staff Singer
Status: Part-time / Seasonal / Non-Exempt, Hourly
Reports to: Artistic Director, with supervision by the Section Leader

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Pacific Chorale, a staff-core/volunteer chorus and resident ensemble of the Segerstrom Center for the Arts in Costa Mesa, CA is seeking professional choristers to serve as paid **Staff Singers** for the 2027-2028 season. Pacific Chorale presents between five to eight programs during its annual concert season that typically runs from September through June, with occasional contracted services during the summer. In addition to presenting its own concert season, Pacific Chorale is frequently engaged to perform three to seven additional programs each year with Pacific Symphony and other Southern California arts partners. During a usual season, Staff Singers may typically be engaged on two to ten programs each year, depending upon the Artistic Director's casting. The ideal candidate must be a strong musician and confident sight-reader. In addition, candidates must possess a positive attitude, professional demeanor, and work ethic. Lastly, they must be confident providing musical leadership within their individual voice sections and the chorus at large.

POSITION RESPONSIBILITIES

- Attend and actively participate in all rehearsals and performances for programs on which you are engaged.
- Provide musical leadership and support for the volunteer singers within your voice section.
- On occasion, prepare and sing solos or within small ensembles as requested. Some substantial solos may require auditions, which are typically scheduled during rehearsals.

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

- Must possess excellent musicianship.
- Must be a confident musical sight reader and ensemble singer.
- A bachelor's degree in music from an accredited college or university is recommended, or demonstration of equivalent work experience and personal training.
- Should demonstrate and model a strong sense of musical leadership and vocal security and serve as source of musical support for the volunteer singers in the ensemble.
- Should possess a general sense of group leadership and consistently model professional behavior by being punctual, reliable, and personable at all rehearsals and performances.
- Should be able to work collaboratively with a wide range of staff and volunteer artists.
- Must have reliable transportation and be able to attend rehearsals (typically in Newport Beach, or Fullerton CA), and performances at the Segerstrom Center for the Arts (Costa Mesa, CA) and other venues across Southern California.



WORK ENVIRONMENT

Rehearsals are usually held between September and June on Mondays and some Tuesdays, between 7:15 – 10:00 p.m., and on occasional Saturdays and other weeknights. Performances typically are on select weekend evenings with occasional afternoon performances and occasional evenings during the week, especially when the chorus is engaged by Pacific Symphony.

COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS

2026-27 Season Rates: As part-time seasonal employees, Staff Singers receive \$31.59 per rehearsal hour (or \$94.77 for a typical three-hour minimum rehearsal call) and \$44.14 per performance hour (or \$154.49 for a typical three-and-a-half-hour minimum performance call). In addition, Staff Singers may receive additional compensation for assigned and auditioned solos. As part-time employees, Staff Singers are eligible to accrue paid sick-time for hours worked.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Online Application & Prescreening

To apply for this position, please visit: www.pacificchorale.org/auditions to submit an audition application form. Applicants are required to submit prescreening recordings and upload a current resume highlighting your relevant performance experience. Qualified candidates will be invited for a live audition during our winter public auditions.

Application Deadline: Rolling. Early application submission is encouraged.

LIVE AUDITION PROCESS

Singing

You will perform one classical art song or aria of your choosing, not longer than three minutes in length. A pianist will be provided at the live audition (please bring a copy of your music for the pianist).

Prepared Excerpts

You will prepare two required choral excerpts from Handel's *Messiah* and Stravinsky's *Symphony of Psalms*. PDFs of these excerpts are available online.

Sight-reading

You will be asked to read musical passages at sight. Our audition team will evaluate your ability to read melodic and rhythmic patterns.

Vocal Flexibility

You may be asked to perform a short selection from the standard choral repertoire to evaluate your vocal flexibility.



ABOUT PACIFIC CHORALE

The mission of Pacific Chorale is to uplift the human spirit through exceptional choral artistry, foster unity across the Southern California community, and cultivate learning through artistic expression at every stage of life.

Located in Costa Mesa, California, the GRAMMY® Award-winning Pacific Chorale has delighted national and international audiences with concerts of great choral music performed at the highest musical standards since 1968. Under the artistic leadership of Robert Istad, the organization produces a series of concerts each year at Segerstrom Center for the Arts, where it serves as the resident choir. Pacific Chorale is recognized for exceptional artistic expression, preserving and performing classical choral music as well as presenting stimulating American-focused programming. In addition to its own substantial performance season and long-standing partnership with Pacific Symphony, the Chorale is sought regularly to perform with the nation's leading symphonies, having performed with such renowned American ensembles as the Los Angeles Philharmonic, the Boston Symphony, the National Symphony, San Diego Symphony, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, Philharmonia Baroque Orchestra, and Musica Angelica.

For more information about Pacific Chorale, please visit www.pacificchorale.org.

Pacific Chorale is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer and actively and enthusiastically seeks a diverse pool of candidates.