



The Purcell School
for young musicians



Choir Leader

Permanent, Part-Time
(to start as soon as possible)



INTRODUCTION

Celebrated throughout the world as a centre of musical excellence, The Purcell School is the most vibrant, exciting and exhilarating place to work or study. We are a close-knit community dedicated to nurturing some of the world's most talented young musicians and we recognize the unique privilege it is to work with these incredibly gifted students.

Our students are the liveliest, most committed and self-motivated young people you could hope to meet. Every day, the School's corridors echo with the sound of extraordinary music as our students prepare for one of the 150 concerts we present every year, both here at School and in the most prestigious venues in London.

It is a working environment quite unlike anywhere else! We want our students to be challenged and inspired by every aspect of their experience here, and we support and encourage staff to achieve this. Academic classes are small, behaviour is excellent and the opportunities for innovative and creative teaching practice are limitless.

If you are committed to providing an outstanding student experience and prepared to play a full part in the life of this extraordinary place, The Purcell School offers you the opportunity to join an exceptional team, serving truly exceptional students in a totally unique environment. I very much hope you will consider making an application to join us.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Paul Bambrough'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Paul Bambrough
Principal

ROLE DESCRIPTION

Choir Leader

We are seeking a dynamic and experienced conductor or choir leader who has a passion for choral singing with ages 11-18.

All 200 students sing in various choirs. This role provides an exciting opportunity to lead part of a new chapter in the history of the Purcell School, bringing together students of classical, jazz, pop and commercial disciplines in a programme of singing that is fun and of a very high standard, and that also supports the development of their aural and general musicianship skills.

You will have sung in, and led, choirs in a wide range of styles, including the traditional English and European choral music repertoire; you will probably also have some experience of working with backing singers or session singers, in Musical Theatre, with a folk group, in close harmony settings, or in music from other musical cultures. You will be comfortable working from sheet music in a range of languages and also by ear in more improvised or devised work.

Over the course of several 40- or 60-minute sessions **every Thursday** you will work with a junior choir (years 7 and 8), two middle school SATB choirs (years 9-11) and also with the whole 6th form of 90 voices. There will be some TA support, but you will be experienced and confident in front of groups of students of different ages. Further opportunities may also present themselves over the course of the school year.

You will work closely with the Director of Music and Head of Academic Music, but will have considerable autonomy in proposing programmes and devising projects. You will be part of a large team of instrumental, voice and composition teachers who have an unrivalled level of expertise and experience as performers and pedagogues.

You should have the ability to develop and maintain warm, respectful and valued rapport with young people, whilst understanding the professional boundaries that must exist between staff and students. You should provide a positive role model, demonstrating self-motivation and mature interpersonal skills.



TERMS AND CONDITIONS

This is a permanent part-time position to start as soon as possible.

The hourly rate is £43.99.

Children of staff are not eligible to be educated at the School except through the normal admissions and audition process. This post is subject to a probationary period. All posts are subject to regular appraisal. Lunch can be taken free of charge at School during term time.

HOW TO APPLY

If you wish to apply, please complete the **School's Application Form** (available on our website) and send it with a supporting **Personal Statement**. Please do not send a separate Curriculum Vitae. **Please note that candidates should be available on Thursdays 9.00-3.40.** Closing date for applications is **9am, Friday 30 August.**

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to interview and audition at the school on 11th or 12th September. Personal statements should outline your experience, subject knowledge and evidence of your achievements. The Personal Statement is your opportunity to tell us how your skills and experience can contribute to an outstanding student experience. Candidates will be required to bring evidence of identity, right to work in the UK and qualifications to the interview.

Applications should be made to the **Director of Music, Paul Hoskins** and sent by email to: recruitment@purcell-school.org

We will review applications as they are received. Please note that the School reserves the right to appoint a candidate or withdraw the post before the closing date for applications.



JOB SPECIFICATION

The Purcell School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

JOB TITLE: Choir Leader

All members of staff are ultimately answerable to the Principal.
Your line manager will be the Head of Academic Music.
All music teaching staff report to the Director of Music.

This job specification sets out the principal duties of the post at the time of drafting. Specific responsibilities are as follows:

Responsibilities include:

- Attending the Purcell School every week during term time (33-34 weeks a year)
- Conducting weekly rehearsals with Junior Choir, Middle School Choirs, 6th form Choirs
- Proposing programmes, both of repertoire for concerts and identifying more general aims for development
- Taking responsibility for developing the quality and range of singing experiences for Purcell students
- In consultation with colleagues, planning performance opportunities in school and occasionally outside school
- There may be an opportunity also to teach individual and/or small group lessons, incorporating elements of general musicianship, such as ear training and theory
- Develop relationships with schools, local authority music services and others, and promote and recommend gifted and talented students to The Purcell School.

FOR ALL STAFF:

- To promote the aims and values of the School
- To support and protect the interests of the students
- To support colleagues in their work
- To ensure the smooth-running of the School and the well-being of the School community
- To act in accordance with the current legal requirements, School policies and guidance on the safeguarding of children and young people
- To undertake such administrative and supervisory duties as may be required
- To follow the procedures and policies set out in the Staff Handbook
- To promote equality by actively protecting staff and students from discrimination

CHILD PROTECTION

The Purcell School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff to share this commitment. All applicants should read the School's Child Protection policy, which is available on our website, and are required to declare any criminal convictions or cautions, or disciplinary proceedings related to young people. Applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including records checked and processed through the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

The Purcell School is an equal opportunities employer and welcomes applications from appropriately qualified people regardless of gender, marital status, sexual orientation, race, ethnic origin, colour, nationality, religion, disability or age. Candidates will be assessed against relevant criteria only (i.e. skills, qualifications, abilities, experience) in selection and recruitment.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Experience and Knowledge:

At least five years' experience as a singer in choirs at a high level, and varied experience of conducting or leading choirs

Experience of working with singers of secondary school age

Experience of teaching Vocal Technique, age-appropriate warm-ups, and good vocal health

Experience and detailed knowledge of a wide choral repertoire

Ability and Skills:

The ability to use an imaginative range of strategies to engage and motivate gifted young musicians in choral singing

The ability to engage with students and give them a happy experience of singing

The ability to establish a safe and purposeful working atmosphere in which students feel secure and confident in choir

Excellent communication, planning and organisation

The ability to take initiative and solve problems

Personal Attributes:

An ability to inspire students of all levels and abilities

Enthusiasm, energy, imagination and a sense of humour

Willingness to play a full part in the life of the School

Commitment to student success

Personal warmth and the ability to connect with students in a meaningful way

An ability to work as a positive member of a team