



ACADEMY COMMUNITY
CONCERTS ASSOCIATION

Academy Chorale & Orchestra

ACCA Conductor & Artistic Director Search

ABOUT ACCA

In 1997 when Michael Kemp was hired by Germantown Academy to build its student choral program, Michael also developed an adult community chorus, which became the Academy Chorale. Soon after, Michael founded the Academy Orchestra. Both ensembles were under the auspices of Germantown Academy until Michael retired from teaching in 2011. The chorus and orchestra then reorganized themselves to become self-supporting by forming the Academy Community Concerts Association (ACCA) as the umbrella organization for both the chorus and orchestra. In 2016, ACCA obtained its 501(c)(3) non-profit status.

The Academy Chorale and Orchestra are committed to cultivating and enhancing aesthetic understanding, spirit, and joy among audiences and participants. Membership of the 75-voice Chorale includes veteran amateur singers, professional musicians, and novice singers from the community who may join without audition. The 50-member Orchestra comprises some of Philadelphia's finest amateurs and teaching professionals. The two ensembles together perform three concerts annually.

Past performances have included such masterworks as the Requiems of Faure, Mozart, Brahms, Durufle, Haydn's *The Seasons*, Beethoven's *Mass in C*, Schubert's *Mass in Eb Major*, Roy Harris' *Symphony #4*, the Philadelphia premiere of Karl Jenkins' *Gloria*, and the USA premiere of original scoring with full orchestra of James Whitbourn's *Annelies*. Orchestral works include Mozart's *Symphony #39*, Beethoven's symphonies #2 and #6, Mendelssohn's *Symphony #5*, and Brahms' *Variations on a Theme by Haydn*. Small ensemble pieces include works by Debussy, Enesco, Raff, Henk Badings' *Trois Chansons Bretonnes*, Arthur Honegger's *Pastorale d'été*, Copland's *Appalachian Spring* in its original form, and more. Concerts include works that appeal to children and families, and anthems and songs from various American and European roots that are not often heard.

The successful candidate for ACCA will have demonstrated effective musical and personal leadership skills. The Conductor and Artistic Director (hereafter referred to as the Music Director) is encouraged to explore diversity in repertoire and imaginative programming ideas that will be of significance to the musicians in the orchestra, the occasion, and the community.

A detailed job description and further information on the orchestra may be found below. Inquiries may be directed to the ACCA Board of Trustees at conductorsearch@academyconcerts.org.

POSITION

This position description describes the duties and responsibilities of the Music Director of the Academy Chorale & Orchestra, a community choral group and orchestra, for the season specified in the employment agreement between ACCA and the Music Director. Concerts are generally held at the Upper Dublin High School Performing Arts Center in Fort Washington, PA and Christ's Lutheran Church in Oreland, PA. There are three concert sets per concert season: two larger concerts with full chorus and orchestra, and a mid-season chamber concert with smaller group of choral and orchestral members. The concert season is between September 1 and May 15.

Concerts typically consist of between nine and thirteen contract services for the chorus and about the same number for the orchestra. The specific concert repertoire and rehearsal schedule is usually developed by the Music Director in conjunction with the ACCA Board and Repertoire Committee, with agreed upon dates from the two performance venues. Rehearsals for the chorus are held weekly on Tuesday evenings (7:15-9:00PM) at Christ's Lutheran Church in Oreland, PA. Rehearsals for the orchestra are held weekly on Thursday evenings (7:15-9:00PM) at Wissahickon Middle School in Ambler, PA. Early and complete repertoire scheduling is essential.

JOB DESCRIPTION

Through effective musical and personal leadership the Music Director is expected to:

- motivate and elicit the best efforts of the choral and orchestra musicians
- explore diversity in repertoire and in the experience of music making
- develop imaginative programming ideas that will have significance to the orchestra, the chorus, the occasion, and the community
- build and sustain the ensembles' visibility and involvement in the community
- engage in collaborative ventures with other community groups and organizations

DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

The Music Director is expected to engage in the following responsibilities and activities:

- Coordinate with the Repertoire Committee and Board of Trustees the specific programs for the season's three subscription concerts. The programs and the dates chosen for the subsequent season must be approved by the Board of Trustees prior to the final subscription concert of the current season. Effort shall be made to avoid conflicts in scheduling with other community groups.
- Engage soloists as needed in accordance with the budget and with the approval of the Board of Trustees.

- Work with the Board to borrow, rent or purchase music for the programs of the chorus and orchestra in accordance with the budget.
- Organize a schedule of weekly rehearsals for the chorus and orchestra on Tuesday and Thursday evenings (currently 7:15-9:00PM) from after Labor Day to early May with an additional Tuesday and Thursday or Friday dress rehearsal the week of each performance. Conduct all rehearsals and performances.
- Evaluate new chorus and orchestra members. Develop a seating plan that takes into consideration the musical skills of members, balancing their enjoyment in making music with the quality of the musical presentation.
- If necessary, and with the approval of the Board, engage paid players to augment the chorus and orchestra as needed for performances in accordance with the budget.
- Assist the Board and Concert Coordinator in preparation for performances by overseeing materials such as program notes and arranging for concert venues and necessary equipment.
- Serve as an ex officio member of the Board of Trustees. At each meeting of the Board, present a Music Director's report and participate in planning and development of performances, the annual budget, fundraising activities and other activities of the orchestra and Board.
- Assist in the general promotion of the orchestra and chorale and in publicizing performances by being available for interviews and public appearances, as appropriate.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Minimum requirement of a Bachelor's degree in Music.
- Demonstrated experience as a conductor of a community chorus, orchestra or equivalent ensemble.
- Commitment to working with chorus and orchestra members to improve their technical abilities, ensemble skills and overall musicianship.
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills.
- Inspirational teacher.
- Strives for high quality while maintaining a sense of humor.
- Strong conducting skills.
- Experience with choral and orchestral repertoire.
- Uses rehearsal time efficiently and effectively.
- Develops creative programs.
- Respectful and cordial to musicians and audience members.

HOW TO APPLY

Interested applicants should submit a letter of intent and resume. If desired, you may also include links to video(s) for consideration:

- By mail: ACCA Search Committee
 PO Box 3393
 Ambler, PA 19002
- Or by email: conductorsearch@academyconcerts.org