



Eastern Connecticut Symphony Chorus (ECSC) Director Search

1. Announcement

Eastern Connecticut Symphony Orchestra (ECSO) and Chorus announces a vacancy for the contractual position of Music Director/Conductor of the Eastern Connecticut Symphony Chorus (ECSC). The start date for this position will be July 2018. Highly qualified, experienced, choral conductors may apply.

2. ECSC and ECSO summary

The Eastern Connecticut Symphony Chorus (ECSC) was founded as a subsidiary of the Eastern Connecticut Symphony Orchestra in 1967 with Connecticut College Choral Director James F. Armstrong directing. The ECSC is comprised of approximately 80 volunteer, auditioned singers of all ages. They perform with the ECSO annually in a subscription concert as well as independently in two choral repertoire concerts, a December holiday concert, and Palm Sunday concerts in Norwich. In June 2009, members of the Chorus sang in concerts in Venice and other European cities. Members of the Chorus were invited to sing with the Yale Symphony under the baton of ECSO Music Director and Conductor, Toshiyuki Shimada in May 2013 and again in 2015. The Chorus rehearses weekly in southeastern Connecticut on Wednesday evenings, 7pm - 9pm, from September through April.

In 1946, Victor Norman founded the **Eastern Connecticut Symphony Orchestra (ECSO)**, which he conducted and guided for the next 35 years. In May 2008, a search committee selected 6 finalists from a field of 220 applicants from 5 continents, each of whom conducted a concert during the 2008-2009 season. Toshiyuki Shimada emerged as the winner and the fifth music director in the history of the Eastern Connecticut Symphony Orchestra.

Annually from early fall to late spring, the 75-plus member professional Symphony Orchestra presents six subscription concerts, most of which feature guest soloists. All subscription concerts are performed at the historic Garde Arts Center on State Street in New London. The mission of the Eastern Connecticut Symphony Orchestra is to “inspire, educate, and connect our communities through live orchestral music.”

3. Qualifications and Duties

The candidate must:

- Have a Master's Degree in Music, preferably majoring in Choral Conducting.
- Have at least two years of experience leading a high-level chorus.

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- Be an excellent musician and with impeccable conducting skill, capable of working with a high-quality auditioned chorus. Be able to inspire, motivate, and rehearse the chorus members with appropriate discipline, possessing exemplary rehearsal manner with the ability to assess each member and their individual capabilities.
- Possess competent orchestral conducting skill and experience.
- Be thoroughly knowledgeable of choral literature (analysis, performance practice, and historical background.) Possess basic knowledge of common foreign languages, such as Italian, French, German and Latin. The conductor will be required to compile challenging, diverse, and interesting programs appropriate to the chorus' collective ability.
- Be able to attend weekly rehearsals from September to May, as well as program and conduct all the ECSC concerts presented apart from the ECSO's concert season. Conductor must prepare the chorus for the ECSO subscription concert(s), with repertoire for those concerts decided by the ECSO Music Director & Conductor.
- Prioritize attending monthly ECSC Board meetings prior to rehearsals as well as additional retreats or fundraisers.
- Serve as chief adjudicator of ECSC semi-annual auditions.
- Have excellent communication skills and a willingness to interact with the general public during concerts and other organization networking events. Be able to speak at the pre-concert lecture.

4. Application Procedure

Interested candidate must submit:

- Cover Letter
- Curriculum Vitae
- Rehearsal and Concert Videos with YouTube links
- Three Letters of Recommendation from professional musicians, regarding the candidate's ability to successfully lead a high-level chorus.
- A sample choral program for a holiday (Christmas) concert with a chamber orchestra and a regular season choral program with a chamber orchestra.

Application materials should be submitted via email, including attachments, with the subject line "ECSC Director Search" to ECSO Executive Director, Caleb Bailey: caleb@ectsymphony.com.

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All applications for this position must be emailed no later than Friday, April 27, 2018.

5. Selection and Audition Procedure

The search committee will evaluate the application materials, and the semifinalists will be notified and interviewed via telephone beginning in early April. Three finalists will be invited to audition with the ECSC in rehearsal format. The repertoire will be provided prior to the audition. The finalists will also be interviewed by the search committee.

The winner will be announced July 2018.

5. Compensation

Compensation is commensurate with experience, with a salary range of \$7,000 to \$10,000 for this position.

For any additional questions or information, please visit ectsymphony.com or email caleb@ectsymphony.com

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