



Conductor/Artistic Director APPLICATION PACKET

Festival Chorale Oregon is a self-auditioning, nonprofit choir for all, based in Salem, OR. Each season typically consists of two terms - Fall (September-November) and Winter (January-April/May). Each term usually attracts 60-110 voices pulled from our roster of approximately 600 interested singers, and presents masterworks with a contracted orchestra, paid at scale. A description of recent and planned programs is included in the table on the next page. The Festival Carolers, an auditioned group from within the larger ensemble, performs in Victorian attire during the holiday season to raise funds for the Chorale. This month of fund-raising includes the performance of a Christmas caroling concert. Preparation of the carolers is also under the aegis of the Conductor/Artistic Director. Performance venue rental and operational expenses are funded by singer dues, ticket sales, and an established grant writing program. This has resulted in a stable financial position for the organization.

With the planned retirement of our founding Artistic Director, Dr. Solveig Holmquist, the Board is accepting application packages for our new Conductor/Artistic Director. The requested application materials, described herein, should be submitted no later than September 30, 2026. Two finalists will be invited to prepare and perform a term's program during the 2027-2028 season. The selected candidate will lead our 50th season, in the fall of 2028.

Application materials

Successful candidates will present a CV, including a list of educational attainments, along with three (3) references (at least one from a former employer), and a letter describing their choral philosophy and vision for the choir, moving forward. The submission should also include two potential programs for an audition concert. FCO has amassed a library of full orchestration scores for many works we have performed in the past. If FCO does not own the orchestration for the work you select, it can be rented or purchased by the Chorale. Candidates may review our past performances at festivalchorale.org/repertoire and inquire as to the availability of scores if their proposed program includes a previously performed piece. Application materials can be emailed to info@festivalchorale.org.

The audition will consist of working with the choir as a guest conductor to prepare one of the two

proposed programs, which will be selected by the Board. Finalists will have 8-10 weeks of rehearsal time. Performances will either be at Salem's Elsinore Theatre or at First Presbyterian Church - depending on grants awarded in the prior year and on the required orchestration (The Elsinore does not have a suitable pipe organ). For both proposed options, the proposal should include the publishers and editions of the listed works, any scheduling conflicts between September and June of 2027-2028, and text that will be included in a "Call to Singers", sharing why you selected this program. The fall concert for the audition year will be scheduled for the Sunday before Thanksgiving, as it has been in the past. The spring concert dates have traditionally been more flexible, as the Chorale works to avoid conflicts with Easter and local May graduations. Following additional discussion, the Board will consider selecting the second option to act as the chosen

[more]

[Application Materials continued]

candidate’s inaugural concert - The Chorale’s 50th season - in the Fall of 2028. In September of 2026, the Board will select and schedule the terms for finalists, and confirm that they are willing to proceed.

Finalists are expected to attend a brief (1-2 hours) contractor planning meeting in the spring of 2027 and the annual planning Board retreat anticipated in early summer of 2027 (details TBD). Both of

these meetings are held in the Salem area. Hybrid attendance at this meeting may be possible upon request.

Finalists will receive an honorarium of \$5,000 for their audition term. The Board will announce the successful candidate in the summer of 2028. The expected annual income for this position will be up to \$12,000.

Festival Chorale Oregon Concerts performed/planned from Covid (2021) through the 2026-2027 season			
Term	Works Performed	Number of Singers	Venue
Winter 2021-2022	Schubert Mass no. 6 in Eb	61	The Elsinore Theatre
Fall 2022-2023	Britten: Saint Nicolas and A Ceremony of Carols	72	Salem First Presbyterian Church
Winter 2022-2023	Cohen: Alzheimer’s Stories, Vaughan Williams: A Serenade to Music, Assorted Choruses	54	The Elsinore Theatre
Fall 2023-2024	Elgar: Dream of Gerontius	80	St. Mary’s Cathedral, Mt. Angel
Winter 2023-2024	Dvořák: Stabat Mater	56	The Elsinore Theatre
Fall 2024-2025	Mozart: Requiem & “Laudate Dominum” from Solemn Vespers	108	The Elsinore Theatre
Winter 2024-2025	Bach and Rutter Magnificats	79	Salem First Presbyterian Church
Spring 2024-2025	De Meij: Symphony No. 5 Return to Middle Earth (special session performed with Salem Symphonic Winds)	44	Rose Auditorium, South Salem High School
Fall 2025-2026	Schütz: Christmas Story, Jacobs: The New-Born King	87	The Elsinore Theatre
Winter 2025-2026	Brahms: Liebeslieder Walzer, Pinkham: Wedding Cantata Assorted Octavos	75	The Elsinore Theatre
Fall 2026-2027	Brahms: Ein Deutsches Requiem	TBD	The Elsinore Theatre
Winter 2026-2027	Bernstein: Chichester Psalms; Vaughan Williams: A Serenade to Music; Assorted Octavos; Kirchner: commissioned work of three octavos	TBD	The Elsinore Theatre