

Liverpool Philharmonic Youth Choir Director

Role Description

About Liverpool Philharmonic Youth Choir

Liverpool Philharmonic Youth Choir is Youth Company's flagship choir for local young people aged 14-19. The choir performs throughout the year, not only at Liverpool Philharmonic Hall, but across the region.

A mixed choir of sopranos, altos, tenors and basses, the Youth Choir regularly performs with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra and Choir, including singing in the popular annual 'Spirit of Christmas' concerts at Liverpool Philharmonic Hall.

The choir performs a wide variety of musical styles – everything from classical and jazz, to folk and roots music. The group regularly performs specially composed new works and collaborates with a variety of guest musicians, ensembles and choirs.

The Youth Choir was invited to sing at the closing ceremony of the London 2012 Olympics, a performance which was broadcast live to a worldwide audience of over 900 million people. In 2008, Youth Choir performed for Queen Elizabeth II, who served as patron of Liverpool Philharmonic from 1958 until her death.

Role title & information	Artistic Director, Liverpool Philharmonic Youth Choir Department: Performance and Learning Location: Liverpool Philharmonic Hall or any reasonable location dependent upon the requirements of the post Responsible to: Youth Company Producer Responsible for: N/A Contract: Freelance
Principle Role	Providing inspirational leadership to the Youth Choir, connected to Liverpool Philharmonic values

	• Excellence – ensuring all activity across Youth Choirs is of the highest quality, ensuring all young people have positive, motivating and aspirational experiences within Youth Company. • Ensemble – ensuring all ensembles are cohesive and collaborative, working in close consultation with Liverpool Philharmonic staff and the young people to develop and deliver youth programmes. • Welcoming – ensuring all ensembles are inclusive and accessible at all stages, from recruitment to ongoing musical progression and beyond into other activity. • Passion for Music – high quality programming of repertoire, guest artists, connecting in with Liverpool Philharmonic Artistic Policy. Lead and inspire the freelance choral team, ensuring exciting, engaging, inclusive and outstanding quality musical activities, musical progress and experiences for children and young people. Conduct and direct all Liverpool Philharmonic Youth Choir rehearsals, performances and courses as required, ensuring outstanding quality musical outcomes for participating children and young people.
Main locations of activity	Notre Dame Catholic College (Everton), Liverpool Philharmonic Hall, Liverpool Philharmonic at the Friary and other rehearsal venues in Liverpool, as advised.
Hours of work	Liverpool Philharmonic Youth Choir rehearse every Monday evening during term time from 18:30-21:00, plus any other advised additional rehearsals, workshops and performances.
Role commencing	January 2026
Employment type	Freelance engagement, with a session (3 hour) fee of £126.95 per session.
DBS	Must have a current Enhanced DBS Certificate, with Child's Barred List
Duties	ARTISTIC PLANNING

The Youth Choir Director will lead on the artistic planning of the programme in consultation with the Youth Company Producer, Director of Choirs and Singing and Artistic Planning Director, throughout the year, and fulfil the following duties:

- Selecting musically inspiring repertoire, that delivers an appropriate level of challenge for the young singers of Youth Choir, and meets a balance of exploring standard traditional choral repertoire, as well as showcasing more contemporary choral works
- Proactively working to diversify the repertoire that the Youth Choir learns and performs, programming works by underrepresented composers from diverse backgrounds, to be more reflective of our City Region and Liverpool Philharmonic's overall artistic policy. Ensuring repertoire is diverse in genre, style, composers and themes.
- Seeking input and feedback regarding repertoire selection from members of the Youth Choir, to ensure that youth voice continues to be central to the ethos of Youth Choir
- Work collaboratively with colleagues in the Youth Company choirs team, as well as Artistic Planning colleagues
- Lead on audition repertoire and standards, ensuring that the quality of singers accepted into the Youth Choir continues to be of a high level.

ARTISTIC DIRECTION

The Youth Choir Director will be responsible for the following:

- Provide high quality and inspiring direction and conducting of all Liverpool Philharmonic Youth Choir rehearsals and performances
- Prepare all detailed rehearsal schedules for young people, operations team and wider choirs team, detailing what repertoire is to be rehearsed when, and when sectionals are to take place
- Prepare and brief musicianship tutors, guest conductors and/or performers, training providers where required, including following up on sessions to learn about progress.
- Being able to provide informed advice and constructive feedback to young musicians on how to improve and develop their singing and orchestral skills during their weekly rehearsals
- Work collaboratively with guest composers, soloists, and conductors who are engaged to work with Youth Choir, advising and informing them as required.
- Work with the freelance artistic team involved in the delivery of the Youth Choir programme to promote good practice, strategic vision and artistic development.
- Ensuring all rehearsals and performances remain positive, inclusive, social and fun for young musicians at all times.

PROGRESSION AND DEVELOPMENT

The Youth Choir Director will work with the Liverpool Philharmonic Youth Company team to actively shape progression routes and development of the Youth Choir programme through the following duties:

	• Ensure existing members of Youth Choir are supported to reach their potential, increasing connections with professionals in and outside of Liverpool Philharmonic, encouraging participation in other choral opportunities, and identifying additional support/training or development for those members who need it. • Proactively working to encourage progression into Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Choir for those singers ageing out of Youth Choir, to ensure continued singing beyond Youth Choir, in line with Liverpool Philharmonic's Singing Strategy. • Work with the Learning team to support strategic development of the Youth Company, including identification of partners, ideas generation, and attending termly strategy meetings. • Work with the Liverpool Philharmonic Learning team to support strategic development of the Youth Company, including identification of partners, ideas generation, and attending termly strategy meetings. RECRUITMENT • Advocate the work of Liverpool Philharmonic Youth Company and Liverpool Philharmonic Youth Choir in the city region, as well as on a national level. • Play a key role in increasing numbers of young people applying for and joining Liverpool Philharmonic Youth Choir including advocacy and promoting the opportunities through networks, and actively working to increase the diversity of young people regularly engaging with Youth Company.
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Person Specification

Criteria	Essential	Desirable
Knowledge / Experience		

Experience of working with young musicians (age 14-19)	Y	
High level of experience of choral conducting	Y	
Specialist knowledge of choral musicianship, across a range of Voice types	Y	
Experience of developing learning curriculums and programmes for young people		Y
In-depth knowledge of choral repertoire	Y	
High level of expertise of vocal technique and development for young developing voices	Y	
Knowledge and understanding of safeguarding practices		Y
Skills / Abilities		
Ability to work collaboratively within an artistic team	Y	
Choral conducting	Y	
Ability to plan and deliver impactful, engaging, inspiring and educational rehearsals for young choral musicians	Y	

How to Apply

Please submit the following information together in one document.

- A CV
- A maximum of 500 words detailing how you meet the requirements of the job description.

All applications are to be emailed directly to Youth Company Producer, Jordan Armstrong, at the following email address: jordan.armstrong@liverpoolphil.com

Applications open until 5pm, Friday 26th September 2026. No applications will be accepted beyond this time.

All applicants must have the right to work in the UK.

Recruitment Process

Applicants shortlisted for interview will be invited to interview for the role, and subsequently audition in a rehearsal with Liverpool Philharmonic Youth Choir, between October and November 2026.

Equal Opportunities Statement

Liverpool Philharmonic is committed to striving to represent modern Britain in all its diversity. Liverpool Philharmonic is committed to equality of opportunity and welcomes applications from all suitably qualified candidates, irrespective of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation. In seeking to be representative of the Liverpool city region, applications from members of minority ethnic groups are particularly welcome as they are currently underrepresented within the creative industry. The appointment will be made on merit with independent assessment, openness and transparency of process.

Disclosure and Barring

Due to the specific nature of this post, a Disclosure (which includes ‘spent’ and ‘unspent’ convictions as defined by the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974) will be requested in the event of the applicant being offered the position, and final confirmation of the post will be dependent on the information contained in this Disclosure. The Disclosure certificate is only seen by those who need to as part of the recruitment process. The Royal Liverpool Philharmonic complies with the DBS code of practice on the use and storage of disclosure information. We have a written policy on the recruitment of ex-offenders, which can be requested from the Society by the applicant at the outset of the recruitment process.

Where a Disclosure is to form part of the recruitment process, we encourage all applicants called for interview to provide details of their criminal record at an early stage in the application process. We request that this information is sent under separate, confidential cover to **Zoë Armfield, Head of Learning**, and we guarantee that this information is only to be seen by those who need it as part of the recruitment process.