

**Announcement of Opening for Music Director/Conductor
For The
Gulf Coast Messiah Chorus**

The Gulf Coast Messiah Chorus is a volunteer community chorus that performs music from Handel's *The Messiah* and has been presenting free to the public concerts for 68 continuous years. It is currently in its 69th year of these performances. The GCMC presents two to three concerts in the Fall featuring the music from Part I of Handel's *The Messiah* and 2 to 3 concerts in the Spring featuring the music from Part II and Part III of Handel's *The Messiah*. The Gulf Coast Messiah Chorus is accompanied by its accompanist during these concerts. It may also be accompanied by orchestral strings and other appropriate instruments during these concerts.

The Music Director/Conductor is a part-time position, selected by the Board of Directors in collaboration with the selection committee and Chorus members. Job responsibilities begin in January, 2022.

Responsibilities:

Selects, with concurrence of the Board of Directors, performance program contents, rehearsal schedules, orchestral members, and invited high-school choral groups. Leads Chorus rehearsals and conducts Chorus and orchestra during all performances and other special choral events such as Armed Forces Retirement Home and Beau Rivage Resort caroling, "flash-mob" ensembles, and other choral performances. Negotiates contracts with orchestra leaders/members for approval by the Board and prepares for Board approval contracts for orchestral members in advance of each performance season. Coordinates rehearsal and performance schedules with the Accompanist and arranges for back-up accompanist in case the Accompanist cannot perform his or her duties. Works with the Young Artist Vocal Competition Committee to select the participants and actively participates during the actual competition. Serves as *ex-officio* member of the Board of Directors and attends all Board of Directors and ExCom meetings.

Qualifications:

Bachelor's or advanced degree in music, music education, or related field is preferred; Three to five years proven work experience as a choir/choral director; Experience conducting or working with a community-based chorus and volunteer singers with various musical skills and experience; Sound musical knowledge; Strong leadership and listening skills; Excellent organizational, time-management, and problem-solving skills; Effective verbal and written communication skills; Ability to work within electronic mediums (word processing, email, internet, Zoom, as well as with digital editors of recorded performances); Patient and creative; and a passion for Handel's *The Messiah*.

To Apply:

- 1. Applications will be accepted until October 6, 2021.**
- 2. Send a letter of interest and resume with 3 professional references (including contact information) to Irene McIntosh at pirenem2@gmail.com.**
- 3. If possible, applicants should provide a video link of themselves conducting a choral ensemble performance, rehearsal, or both.**
- 4. Interviews for selected applicants will be conducted by members of the Selection Committee.**
- 5. Selected applicant(s) will be invited to lead a GCMC rehearsal during October, 2021.**
- 6. For additional information please contact Irene McIntosh, Strategic Planning Chair, at pirenem2@gmail.com.**