



GARSINGTON OPERA

AT WORMSLEY

Head of Music

Application deadline: 5pm, Thursday 11 January 2018

Garsington Opera is recruiting a top-level coach to act as Head of Music, Chorus Master and Music Director of the Alvarez Young Artist Programme for its prestigious summer festival. The successful candidate will be responsible for enabling Garsington Opera to reach and maintain the highest musical standards.

The festival rehearses in London from mid-April and presents four productions each year at a stunning venue on the Wormsley estate near High Wycombe (45 minutes from London). Although the bulk of activity takes place April-July each year, significant involvement with the company is required year round. This is a freelance position to commence in September 2018 for the 2019 festival onwards.

CHORUS

The Garsington Chorus is comprised of freelance musicians who are mostly still studying at, or have just left, the major UK colleges. Most chorus members will also be allocated a cover or small role as part of their season assignment.

1) RECRUITMENT

- Consider applications (received on YAP Tracker)
- Attend auditions (held July – November)
- Allocate chorus parts, small roles and covers, holding specific working sessions as necessary.

2) PREPARATION

- Allocation of chorus parts and divisi in conversation with conductors.
- Liaise with conductors in order to suitably prepare chorus (singers are contracted to memorise parts in advance of music calls).
- Acting as chorus master through production and stage rehearsals and performances, including leading chorus warm-ups. (Assistant Conductors can deputise).
- Maintain standards and trouble-shoot issues throughout the run.

MUSIC STAFF

1) RECRUITMENT

- Select assistant conductors, répétiteurs and language coaches in conversation with the Artistic Director and guest conductors, conducting auditions as necessary.

2) MANAGEMENT

- Conduct weekly music staff meetings during the season
- Manage schedules, including dealing with NAs and suggesting deps where necessary.

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Founder Leonard Ingrams OBE • President Rosalind Ingrams • Chairman Bernard Taylor DL • Artistic Director Douglas Boyd • Executive Director Nicola Creed
Directors Miranda Curtis (Deputy Chairman) • Dr John Drysdale • Professor Jonathan Freeman-Attwood • Catherine Ingrams
Neil King QC • Iain Mackinnon • Lady Marks • David Suratgar

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PRODUCTIONS

1) CASTING

- Sit on casting committee
- Attend auditions, and play as appropriate
- Talent-scouting at other performances, especially at the UK colleges and conservatoires.

2) PREPARATION

- Attend model showings
- Prepare all scores closely and contribute to discussions re editions, versions, orchestration etc.
- Pre- and mid-season coaching of cast and covers as required
- Liaison with the orchestra manager as required.

3) PARTICIPATION

- Act as assistant conductor / repetiteur / off-stage conductor / orchestral keyboardist as the schedule allows and the position holder's expertise and interests dictate.
- Attend rehearsals and performances, including all piano dresses and stage/orchestra rehearsals.
- Act as the Artistic Director's deputy as required

YOUNG ARTISTS PROGRAMME

All members of the chorus and less experienced guest covers and guest artists are considered members of the Alvarez Young Artist Programme and are offered supplementary activities during their time at Garsington Opera. The Head of Music acts as Music Director for this programme and duties include:

- Selection of guest coaches
- Individual coaching
- Play for recitals / masterclasses if appropriate.
- Oversee the Cover Showcase
- Act as Music Director for additional performance events in UK and possibly abroad, including a regular staged event for the main donors.
- Strategic development and expansion of the programme in line with Garsington Opera's stated aims.

ACTING AS A GARSINGTON OPERA AMBASSADOR

1) INTERNAL EVENTS

- Speak at and/or accompany singers at company events
- Attend Board/artistic committee/donor events as invited

2) EXTERNAL EVENTS

- Attend performances, especially at the London colleges
- Help increase Garsington Opera's profile

To apply, please send CV and covering letter to helen@garsingtonopera.org by 5pm on Thursday 11 January, 2018. First-round interviews will take place in the week of 15 January.

PERSON SPECIFICATION

REQUIRED

- Highest level musician with experience at several professional opera houses.
- Sought-after coach with an in-depth understanding of musical style and the technical requirements of singing.
- A deep knowledge of the operatic repertoire, singers and operatic languages.
- Experienced and enthusiastic mentor of young singers.
- Demanding and detailed approach to chorus preparation.
- Organised, can-do, flexible and positive approach with well-developed people skills.

DESIRABLE

- Excellent pianistic skills
- Excellent conducting skills and professional experience
- Good relationships with UK colleges and conservatoires
- An in-depth knowledge of the UK's freelance repetiteur market.