

MSO

MSO Chorus Repetiteur , Melbourne Symphony Orchestra

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES, MARCH 2019



Melbourne Symphony Orchestra

About the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra

The MSO is one of Australia's leading orchestras and each year engages more than 4 million people through over 150 live performances, recordings, and TV/radio broadcasts. From its first performance in 1906 the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra has offered the very best in orchestral music and collaborates with guest artists and arts organisations from across the world.

The MSO was the first professional orchestra to represent Australia internationally in 1965. Recent and coming international engagements include Europe and the UK (2014 & 2020), China (2016 & 2018), Indonesia (2017) and USA in 2019. The MSO's Chief Conductor is Sir Andrew Davis, Associate Conductor Benjamin Northey, and Cybec Assistant Conductor Tianyi Lu.

The MSO performs a variety of concerts ranging from core classical performances at its home, Hamer Hall at Arts Centre Melbourne, to its annual free concerts at Melbourne's largest outdoor venue, the Sidney Myer Music Bowl. The MSO also delivers innovative and engaging programs to audiences of all ages through its Education and Outreach initiatives.

Sir Andrew Davis gave his inaugural concerts as the MSO's Chief Conductor in 2013, having made his debut with the Orchestra in 2009. Highlights of his tenure have included collaborations with artists such as Bryn Terfel, Emanuel Ax, Truls Mork and Renee

Fleming, and the Orchestra's European Tour in 2014 which included appearances at the Edinburgh Festival, the Amsterdam Concertgebouw, the Mecklenburg-Vorpommern Festival and Copenhagen's Tivoli Concert Hall. Further current and future highlights with Sir Andrew Davis include a complete cycle of the Mahler symphonies.

The MSO also works with Associate Conductor Benjamin Northey and the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra Chorus, as well as with such eminent recent guest conductors as Thomas Ades, John Adams, Tan Dun, Charles Dutoit, Jakub Hrůša, Mark Wigglesworth, Markus Stenz and Simone Young. It has also collaborated with non-classical musicians including Burt Bacharach, Nick Cave, Sting, Tim Minchin, Ben Folds, DJ Jeff Mills and Flight Facilities.

The MSO reaches a wider audience through regular radio broadcasts, recordings and CD releases, including a Strauss cycle on ABC Classics which includes *Four Last Songs*, *Don Juan* and *Also sprach Zarathustra*, as well as *Ein Heldenleben* and *Four Symphonic Interludes* from *Intermezzo*, both led by Sir Andrew Davis. On the Chandos label the MSO has recently released Berlioz' *Harold en Italie* with James Ehnes and music by Charles Ives which includes Symphonies Nos. 1 and 2, as well as a range of orchestral works including *Three Places in New England*, again led by Sir Andrew Davis.



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About the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra Chorus

For more than half a century, the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra Chorus has been the unstinting voice of the Orchestra's choral repertoire, at the same time developing a reputation as one of Australia's premier symphonic choruses. In 2018 the MSO Chorus will be lead by Chorus Master Warren Trevelyan-Jones and will perform some of the most moving and inspiring repertoire including Elgar's *The Dream of Gerontius*, Berlioz' masterpiece *L'Enfance du Christ*, Holst's *The Planets* and of course, Handel's *Messiah*.

The MSO Chorus is committed to developing and performing new Australian and international choral repertoire. Commissions include Brett Dean's *Katz und Spatz* (commissioned with the Swedish Radio Choir), Ross Edwards' *Mountain Chant* (commissioned with Cantillation), Paul Stanhope's *Exile Lamentations* (commissioned with Sydney Chamber Choir and London's Elysian Singers), and Gabriel Jackson's *To the Field of Stars* (commissioned with the Netherlands

Chamber Choir and Stockholm's St Jacob's Chamber Choir). The Chorus has also premiered works by many composers including James MacMillan, Arvo Pärt, Hans Werner Henze, Alfred Schnittke, Gavin Bryars, Valentyn Silvestrov, Arturs Maskats, Thierry Machuel and Pēteris Vasks, and others.

Recordings by the MSO Chorus for Chandos and ABC Classics have received critical acclaim. It has performed across Brazil and at the Cultura Ingles Festival in Sao Paolo, in Kuala Lumpur with the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra, with The Australian Ballet, Sydney Symphony Orchestra, West Australian Symphony Orchestra, Barbra Streisand, at the Melbourne International Arts Festival, the AFL Grand Final, and the Sydney Olympic Arts Festival. This year the Chorus will again perform at the Anzac Day commemorative ceremonies, continuing its strong association with the Veterans community.



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Position Description

Job Title	MSO Chorus Repetiteur
Department	Operations
Location	MSO Southbank Offices

Date	March 2019
Reports to	Director of Operations
Role Status	Sessional

1. POSITION PURPOSE

The Melbourne Symphony Orchestra Chorus is a volunteer choir comprised of around 120 singers, sitting within the company alongside the Orchestra in the operations department. The Chorus performs regularly throughout the year, both with the Orchestra and occasionally in stand-alone performances. The MSO Chorus Repetiteur supports the MSO Chorus and MSO Chorus Master in preparing and delivering the Chorus's annual performance program, and reports to the Director of Operations via the Chorus Master and Chorus Coordinator.

In a given year, the Chorus will start rehearsals in late January and conclude the year's activities in mid-December. Rehearsals are held from 7:30–10:00pm every Monday evening in the Iwaki Auditorium at the ABC Southbank Centre, with the occasional requirement for a second rehearsal in a week (on a Tuesday or Wednesday evening) if the demands of the schedule are great.

While understanding that the MSO Chorus Repetiteur will likely have additional work commitments, whether it be coaching, teaching or performing, the MSO is seeking to appoint a pianist who will prioritise the role and be able to commit to the majority of the year's playing engagements. In the context of the lengthy and often complex nature of the repertoire performed by the Chorus, replacement of a repetiteur for individual rehearsals is difficult. If this is necessary (excepting due to extenuating circumstances), then the MSO will look to engage a replacement repetiteur for the entire project in question rather than for one or two rehearsals.

Due to the nature of the MSO Chorus's schedule of rehearsals and performances, the majority of work in this role will occur out of normal office hours.

2. MSO VALUES and BEHAVIOURS

Excellence	We are the best we can be, artistically and commercially.
Leadership	We lead by example as proud and passionate advocates of our art form and our people, in Australia and on the global stage.
Innovation	We are creative and seek new ways to inspire and engage our stakeholders.
Collaboration	We are one orchestra, and work cohesively with our partners and communities to achieve our goals.
Respect	We respect all those with whom we interact. We are ethical, honest, and transparent.
Accountability	We are responsible and accountable.
Diversity	We reflect the diversity of our stakeholders to remain relevant, vibrant and inclusive, and engage all aspects of the Victorian community we represent.

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Position Description

3. DIMENSIONS and WORKING RELATIONSHIPS

Reports to	Director of Operations
Direct Working Relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chorus Master• Chorus Coordinator• Volunteer members of the Chorus• Orchestra Manager• Assistant Orchestra Manager• Guest Conductors and Chorus Masters

4. MAJOR RESPONSIBILITY AREAS

The MSO Chorus Repetiteur accompanies the MSO Chorus in rehearsals and warm-ups, and accompanies prospective Chorus members in solo auditions. Occasionally, the MSO Chorus Repetiteur will be required to take rehearsals (either full Chorus, or sectionals) and/or warm-ups.

5. KEY RESULT AREA MAJOR ACTIVITIES

Accompany the MSO Chorus in rehearsal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Accompany the MSO Chorus in regular rehearsals under the direction of the MSO Chorus Master, as well as play under the direction of guest conductors in Conductor Piano Rehearsals known as CPRs.• Prepare and play the piano reductions of all works being performed by the MSO Chorus• Be capable of score-reading the vocal lines (individually, as well as simultaneously – usually up to four parts)• Possess an understanding of the full score, particularly instrumental cues relating to the vocal parts• Be alert to give starting notes/chords throughout the rehearsal
Accompany audition applicants	Auditions for prospective MSO Chorus members are held three to four times a year according to demand. Typically, the MSO Chorus Repetiteur is engaged to accompany the audition applicants, which involves sight-reading an own-choice piece that the applicant brings to the audition. It is preferable that the repetiteur makes themselves available for auditions when they are scheduled
Take Chorus rehearsals and/or warm-ups	From time to time the MSO Chorus Repetiteur will be required to take rehearsals (either with the whole Chorus, or with smaller sections of the Chorus) and/or warm-ups immediately prior to rehearsals or performances
Other	Carry out any other associated duties as reasonably requested
Occupational Health and Safety	Comply with all MSO policy and procedures to ensure that all occupational health and safety (OHS) risks are minimised through awareness and application of safe working practices across all MSO venues

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Position Description

6. ESSENTIAL CRITERIA

- Piano competency, sufficient to play all symphonic chorus repertoire
 - Ability to learn music in a short period of time
 - Outstanding sight-reading skills
 - Experience playing under the direction of a conductor
 - Experience accompanying a choir
 - Ability to play multiple lines of a vocal score simultaneously
 - Excellent organisational skills
 - Outstanding and prompt communication and writing skills
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7. DESIRABLE CRITERIA

- Experience accompanying solo singers
 - Vocal coaching experience
 - Knowledge of foreign languages, particularly German, French, Latin, Italian and Russian
 - Conducting experience
 - An interest in orchestral and symphonic chorus repertoire
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8. PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS

- Ability to act as a polished and professional representative for the MSO
 - Ability to create and maintain strong working relationships – both internal and external to the MSO
 - Exceptional time management skills and attention to detail
 - Ability to work effectively within a team and use initiative as required
 - Energy and flexibility to work within a demanding and highly rewarding professional environment
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9. POSITION DESCRIPTION MAINTENANCE

Date of last review	February 2019
Conducted By:	Gabrielle Waters (Director of Operations); Guy Ross (Senior Manager Human Resources); Lucien Fischer (Chorus Coordinator)
Date for next review:	As required

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Recruitment Process

This is an excellent time to be joining the MSO and a fantastic opportunity for a passionate and established repetiteur. Working closely with a small but dedicated team, this role will be well-suited to someone looking to make a positive contribution to a much-loved cultural icon of Melbourne and Australia.

Key dates

Applications close 5.00pm, Monday 08 April 2019

Preferred start date as soon as possible

How to apply

To apply for this position please forward a covering letter, current resume and statement addressing the selection criteria via email to:

Guy Ross, Senior Manager Human Resources

Telephone: +61 3 8646 1130

Email: jointheteam@mso.com.au

Referees will be sought from candidates following the interview process.

Unsuccessful candidates will be notified via email on the completion of the recruitment process.

Contact

For further confidential conversation about this opportunity please contact

Lucien Fischer, Chorus Coordinator

Telephone: +61 3 8646 1103

Email: fischerl@mso.com.au
