



## **Associate Musical Director / Central London (fixed term / paid)**

Pegasus invites ambitious choral conductors to apply for the role of Associate Musical Director for a 12-month placement commencing in September 2018.

### **Role and responsibilities**

This position will provide the opportunity to gain experience working with a prestigious and active chamber choir, rehearsing a wide range of challenging music to a high standard. The intention is that the position will act as a springboard to the candidate's career as a successful choral conductor. Pegasus rehearses in Central London, where the role will be based.

The Associate Musical Director will assist the Musical Director with a range of responsibilities, including:

- Deputising for the Musical Director, or a guest conductor, to take choir rehearsals
- Accompanying rehearsals as required
- Consulting with the Musical Director and the choir committee on programming and concert venues

In the course of the placement Pegasus will endeavour to provide the Associate Musical Director with an opportunity to programme and direct a full concert performance with the choir.

### **Required qualities**

The successful candidate will have:

- Strong experience of conducting chamber choirs, potentially gained through a master's degree in choral conducting, or demonstrated through equivalent experience
- A wide knowledge and appreciation of choral repertoire
- Strong keyboard skills
- A high degree of reliability and professionalism
- A friendly and outgoing manner

### **Desirable skills**

The ideal candidate will also have:

- The ability to secure concert bookings for the choir
- The ability to develop the choir's membership, including attracting new recruits

The position carries a bursary of £1,500–2,000, based on the number of rehearsals and engagements attended. Expenses will be paid for any travel required to performances outside London.

### **Application process**

Please apply by email, attaching a full CV and covering letter, to Matthew Altham at [matthew.altham@gmail.com](mailto:matthew.altham@gmail.com). Write "Pegasus AMD application" in the subject line of the email. Please indicate in your cover letter how you learned about this position. The deadline for applications is 8 June 2018. Interviews and auditions will be held in the first half of July.

*"My year working with Pegasus was full of variety, fantastic music and thoroughly enjoyable rehearsals. From leading performances at a quintessential Landmark Trust home to preparing the choir for a performance of Acis and Galatea for London's Handel Festival, no two projects were the same and I learnt a huge amount from working with this experienced choir. My highlight was programming and leading a rehearsal weekend and concert in January, which allowed me to conduct Copland's In The Beginning, a work I never could have hoped to tackle this early in my career. This is a fabulous opportunity which I recommend without hesitation."*

**Jessica Norton, Pegasus Associate Musical Director 2017-18**

## **About Pegasus**

Pegasus, now in its 22nd season, is one of London's most acclaimed chamber choirs. Under its Musical Director, Matthew Altham, the ensemble has developed an extensive repertoire of sacred and secular music ranging from the Renaissance to the present day, including premieres of works by Thomas Adès, Francis Grier and John Tavener.

Pegasus's members are experienced singers who pursue their passion for choral music alongside varied careers. The choir presents numerous concerts each year in collaboration with charities, music societies and festivals. The choir does not rehearse weekly but holds several rehearsals or an all-day rehearsal prior to each performance. This gives the choir the flexibility to be involved in a wide range of musical projects. Pegasus performs about a dozen concerts a year.

Pegasus performs with leading instrumental ensembles, vocal soloists and conductors, and collaborates regularly with the London Handel Orchestra. In March this year, the choir took the chorus role in two performances of Handel's opera *Acis and Galatea* for the London Handel Festival, performed at St John's Smith Square with the London Handel Orchestra, conducted by Laurence Cummings and directed by Martin Parr. The choir has a long association with Tilford Bach Society, for whom our most recent concerts included J.S. Bach's *Christmas Oratorio* and *Ascension Oratorio* and Handel's *Dettingen Te Deum*. In 2017 Pegasus made its debut at London's Barbican Hall in Mahler's *Resurrection Symphony*, and last year also the choir gave the London premiere of Colin Riley's *Roads Shining Like River Up Hill After Rain*, a setting of poems of Edward Thomas for choir and cello.

Pegasus has performed in five productions with renowned dancer Carlos Acosta at the London Coliseum, the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, and the Royal Albert Hall. The ensemble has featured on BBC television and radio, Channel 4 and Classic FM. In 2013 Pegasus won the chamber choir prize at the Florilège Vocal de Tours International Choral Competition in France, along with a special award for its performance of the music of Francis Poulenc. The choir was a prize-winner at the 2007 Tolosa International Choral Competition in Spain, and a semi-finalist in the BBC Choir of the Year competition in 2005.

For more information on Pegasus, including information on upcoming projects, please visit [www.pegasuschoir.org.uk](http://www.pegasuschoir.org.uk).

## Recent performances by Pegasus

*All performances directed by Matthew Altham unless otherwise stated.*

### **January 2017: Private Passions – Songs of Longing and Love**

Works by Byrd, Gibbons, Tomkins, Vaughan Williams and Elgar

*The Charterhouse, London*

### **March 2017: Meditations on Mercy**

Works by Allegri, Byrd, Mouton, Sheppard, Tallis and Victoria

*St Martin in the Fields, London*

### **May 2017: Mahler's "Resurrection" Symphony**

With Vox Cordis, Epiphoni and the Kensington Symphony Orchestra, directed by Russell Keable

*Barbican Hall, London*

### **May 2017: J.S. Bach Cantatas BWV 131 and 150, and Mass in G BWV 236**

*St Andrew's Church, Farnham*

### **July 2017: Music for a Summer's Day**

Works Finzi, Sullivan, Vaughan Williams, Porter and Gershwin

Directed by Jessica Norton

*Goddards, Abinger Common, Surrey*

### **September 2017: Song Shards – From Darkness to Light**

Featuring the London premiere of Colin Riley's *Roads Shining Like River Up Hill After Rain* and works by Tavener, Gorecki, Poulenc, Sandström, Gjeilo, Verdi and Elgar

*St George's Church, Hanover Square, London*

### **November 2017: J.S. Bach's Christmas Oratorio**

With the London Handel Orchestra, directed by Adrian Butterfield

*All Saints Church, Tilford, Surrey*

### **December 2017: Christmas with Pegasus**

*St Botolph's Bishopsgate, London*

*The Charterhouse, London*

*Trinity Church, Clapham (supporting Royal Trinity Hospice)*

### **January 2018: In the Beginning**

Aaron Copland's *In the Beginning* and works by Gesualdo, Stanford, Tippett and others, directed by Jessica Norton

*St George's Church, Bloomsbury, London*

### **March 2018: Handel's Acis and Galatea**

A staged performance of Handel's opera, with the London Handel Orchestra, directed by Laurence Cummings

*St John's Smith Square, London*

### **May 2018: J.S. Bach's Ascension Oratorio & Handel's Dettingen Te Deum**

*St Andrew's Church, Farnham*