



Sir Alexander Gibson Memorial Fellowship for Choral Conductors 2024:25

Job Title:	Sir Alexander Gibson Memorial Fellow
Reports to:	RSNO Chorus Manager & RSNO Chorus Director
Term:	September 2024 – June 2025
Salary:	£3,000 per annum, plus travel bursary up to £500

Sir Alexander Gibson Memorial Fellowship for Choral Conductors

Sir Alexander Gibson was instrumental in the formation of the Royal Scottish National Orchestra Chorus. He did much to encourage and develop music in Scotland at all levels and, in particular, gave his support to those keen to learn. It is therefore appropriate that this fellowship should bear his name.

Purpose of Role

The Sir Alexander Gibson Memorial Fellowship is open to anyone interested in furthering their experience of choral conducting, in particular working with a large symphonic chorus. Gibson Memorial Fellowship candidates should already have experience of choral conducting. The Fellowship offers the recipient a remuneration of £3,000 per annum and a travel bursary of up to £500.

The aim is to offer a unique experience working with symphonic choruses, and an opportunity to work at a very high level with the fine and capable RSNO Chorus and its Chorus Director.

The Fellowship will involve attendance at a significant number of Wednesday evening rehearsals, at the discretion of the Chorus Director. Fellows will also be expected to attend all conductor's piano rehearsals, orchestral rehearsals and performances of the RSNO Chorus for one season from September to June. An opportunity to observe and work with the RSNO Youth Chorus and RSNO Chorus Academy could also be available to suitable candidates. The Fellowship will initially last for one season, with the option of an extension for a further season, pending discussions with the Chorus Director and Chief Executive.

The recipient of the Fellowship will benefit from mentoring on the following:

- Preparation of scores
- Rehearsal technique
- Working with the Chorus as a whole and in sections (as necessary)
- Flexibility will be built in to suit the needs of the recipient, Chorus and its Chorus Director

RSNO Chorus Overview

The Royal Scottish National Orchestra Chorus is Scotland's leading symphonic chorus, singing numerous concerts annually with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra plus charity events.

As an amateur chorus members receive no payment for their services, but the level of performance and the speed at which they are required to learn repertoire means that the level of ability of the singers is high. The singers are auditioned at entry and regularly re-assessed to ensure standards are upheld.

The Chorus Director of the RSNO Chorus is Stephen Doughty, who was appointed in 2022. Over a career of some 30 years, he has a large amount of experience working with choirs and amateur choruses at all levels, most recently with the 120-strong Belfast Philharmonic Choir before being appointed to the RSNO Chorus.

2024:25 Concert Season Repertoire

RSNO Chorus repertoire for the 2024:25 Concert Season will include:

Mahler - Symphony No2 *Resurrection*

Orff - Carmina Burana

Bernstein - Chichester Psalms

Mozart - Requiem

Shortlisting and Interviews

The Chorus Director will draw up a shortlist from the applicants and those successful will be given the opportunity to rehearse the RSNO Chorus in a given specific piece of music.

Assessment of these performances will be by the RSNO's Chief Executive, RSNO Chorus Director, Chair of the RSNO Chorus Committee and Chorus members. Following this assessment there will be a short interview with the panel.

Please note that previous holders of the Fellowship are not eligible to apply.

How to Apply

To apply please email as a PDF the following documents to the Chorus Manager, Christine Walker at christine.walker@rsno.org.uk:

- your current CV;
- a covering letter, containing the details of two professional referees;
- a link to video footage demonstrating your conducting (e.g. Dropbox/Google Drive link).

Closing date for applications: 12 July 2024

Interviews: Wednesday 4 September 2024 TBC