



Thank you for your interest in the Music Director position with Bells of the Cascades (BOC). This letter will give you some basic information about BOC. Attached is the application, which should be returned by April 30, 2016.

BOC is the premiere community handbell choir in Portland, Oregon. BOC has been performing for twenty-five years and is excited to continue serving the greater Portland metro area. Four excellent musicians have held the position of Director and we are looking for a similarly qualified person to continue the work they have started.

Involvement in BOC is incredibly rewarding. The sense of accomplishment we get from preparing and performing advanced level music with a high degree of musicianship is very satisfying. That level of musicianship doesn't come without work. We currently rehearse on Tuesday evenings, from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. in Tualatin, Oregon, with some weekend commitments for concerts, retreats, etc.

In addition to conducting rehearsals and concerts, the Music Director has traditionally devised a weekly rehearsal plan, determined new music selections and concert repertoire, and assigned parts. However, we are not wed to the "way things have always been done" and are curious about other ways to ensure a high level of musicianship and performance, including being open to alternative means and schedules of rehearsing. Regardless of the specifics of how the work gets done, we expect the Music Director to be integral to musical vision of the organization.

Additionally, BOC sponsors cruises during which we conduct ringing activities including ringing a concert. These cruises are approximately every two years, although timing depends on location. There is a great deal of organization and work that goes into the cruises, and while the majority of this is done by a Cruise Committee, there are additional expectations of those who go on the cruise. The cruises are generally 7-day cruises and may involve an additional day of travel.

The Music Director is the only paid position in BOC. However, we do not cover all expenses associated with participation. We ask the ringers and director to help cover the cost of occasional expenses such as performance attire, gas and lodging for out-of-town events and the cruise. We reimburse as many of these expenses as we can while maintaining a responsible treasury to operate the organization.

While this letter is intended to give you an overview of BOC, it should not limit your curiosity or creativity in how you, as Music Director, can contribute to BOC. We are excited about new possibilities and interested in hearing your suggestions for how your talents and expertise can

best be implemented in BOC. We want your position as Music Director to be as rewarding as ringing is for us and are interested in your ideas to make that happen.

I look forward to speaking with you further about this opportunity. Should you have any questions about the Music Director position or about BOC in general, please feel free to contact me at 503-277-8784 or via email at president@bellsofthecascades.org. We are targeting the end of April for applications to be submitted, but please do let us know of your interest prior to then if possible.

Sincerely,

Brian Parrott
President
Bells of the Cascades