

Artistic Director - Farmington Valley Chorale

The Farmington Valley Chorale is seeking an experienced, dynamic and inspiring music professional to lead our singers into the next stage of its growth.

Type of Position: Permanent, Part-time

Category: Choral Arts

State/Province: CT (Rehearsals in Simsbury and concerts in and around the Farmington Valley and surrounding towns)

Position: Artistic Director

Deadline: December 1, 2026

Posted: September 1, 2026

Job Description / Duties

(Any mention of “FVC” or “Chorale” refers to the “Farmington Valley Chorale”)

Specific Duties & Responsibilities:

- Organize rehearsal schedules and lead the FVC in regular weekly Sunday night rehearsals, generally running from September through May with a break for the holidays. In addition to weekly rehearsals, planned activities should include rehearsal warm-ups and joint rehearsals of the Chorale with orchestra and soloists in the final week of each concert season (production week) and possible extra sectional sessions. In addition to the regular Sunday evening rehearsals, there will also be a dress rehearsal in preparation for each concert.
- Listen to prospective members prior to their joining the Chorale, with a view to continually improving the quality of the chorus. The Artistic Director has the right and responsibility not to accept certain voices if he/she feels a new singer would not fit in, or distract from, the FVC in any way.
- Conduct the Chorale, orchestra and soloists at concerts. Communicate effectively with the audience at each performance, welcoming our audience and providing insight into the music. Guide the singers of the FVC weekly within rehearsals and through messages sent in a weekly FVC newsletter, to help shape and educate during the rehearsal process.
- Appoint and supervise, with support from and financial approval of the Board of Directors, all professional musicians engaged for concerts and events, including the accompanist, orchestra members, and soloists. Arrange for and compensate an appropriate substitute Artistic Director in the event of illness or other required absence.
- Work collaboratively with the Board of Directors to select the repertoire. In addition to the primary choral work(s) to be performed, concert programs may include one or

more short pieces for orchestra or soloist(s). Program selections must take into account the abilities and interests of the Chorale as well as budgetary guidelines of the organization. Each season, the goal is to have a complete schedule of all major concerts, works, venues and dates/times for our singers by July 1 for the following season, so it can be provided as early as possible.

- Select editions of the works to be performed. Prepare notations and handouts as needed. Select referenced YouTube performances for study. The FVC Board assists in the printing and logistics of this effort, as we utilize Choir Genius for 24/7 access to practice files, notes, handouts, etc., for all active singers.
- Report to and regularly communicate with the Board of Directors, including attending FVC Board meetings, when invited, and one afternoon Board retreat annually.
- Solicit and accept feedback from the Chorale and the Board regarding the rehearsal and performance experience.
- Be available for, and support opportunities for, outreach and expansion. Attend periodic fundraising event(s) organized by the Board.

Qualifications / Required Skills

General Artistic Director Profile and Qualifications:

The ideal candidate will possess the following qualifications:

- An advanced degree in music is preferred, as is broad knowledge of the classical choral repertoire, and a portfolio of choral conducting at this level. Advanced keyboard skills are essential, as well as an ability to read and conduct from orchestral scores.
- Clearly communicates expectations, and inspires singers to an enhanced vocal ability and understanding of the music.
- Fully capable of conducting an orchestra and soloists drawn from local professional musicians, and is able to communicate effectively with the orchestra and soloists.
- Able to inspire and transmit enthusiasm and knowledge to the Chorale, orchestra and audience.
- Values and appreciates our extended family of supporters, donors, patrons, and volunteers.
- Works collaboratively with the Board of Directors, and with the broader community.
- Embraces and promotes an internal culture of civility and respect.

Additional Information

Compensation:

- The position is an 8 to 9 month position annually, from late August to late Spring of each year, with an extended hiatus for the holidays.
- Starting compensation is \$15,000. No benefits are included, and no relocation allowance is available.

Application Timeline:

- December 1, 2026: Complete applications will be accepted until this date.
- January 15, 2027: The FVC Search Committee will interview a short list of candidates; finalists will be selected by this date.
- February 2027: Finalists will audition in person, with the full Chorale.
- April 15, 2027: The FVC Board of Directors will appoint the new Artistic Director by this date.
- Start Date: Planning with the FVC Board for the 2027-28 season begins immediately after selection (In Person and/or Zoom); regular rehearsals begin shortly after Labor Day, 2027, with the first two Sunday rehearsals allowing new and prospective members to be heard prior to rehearsal.

Application Items Required:

(Note: The candidate's name must be included in the subject line of any communications.)

1. Letter stating your interest in the position and explaining how your skills and experience combine to make you an excellent candidate.
2. Resume.
3. Letters of reference from three professional references, emailed to jerryqueen@farmingtonvalleychorale.org by the referencee themself.
4. Sample concert programs and/or list of repertoire you have conducted or would program for a chorus of our size and composition (include title, composer or arranger). If you have any videos of your past performances, you may provide these links as well, such as YouTube or Google Drive links, if available.

5. Availability for the interview/audition dates described in the timeline above, and any current time commitments that may conflict with the current Farmington Valley Chorale schedule of activities.

Contact Information

- **Applications:** jerryqueen@farmingtonvalleychorale.org
- **Questions:** jerryqueen@farmingtonvalleychorale.org

Employer Profile

The Farmington Valley Chorale was founded in 1970, over 50 years ago in the Farmington Valley of Connecticut. Through thoughtful and steady leadership we have stretched beyond the typical community choir and become a tight knit family of singers that “rise up” and enjoy every choral challenge we’ve been given.

The Farmington Valley Chorale is a community choir of approximately 80 singers, and produces public choral concerts to enrich the cultural life of the communities of the Farmington Valley. We also encourage the development of choral arts in our communities and provide amateur singers an opportunity to develop their talents under an accomplished director.

Since the Chorale’s formation to celebrate the Town of Simsbury’s Tercentennial, we have produced two major concerts each year, most often with professional musicians and soloists. For over five decades, the Farmington Valley Chorale has produced and presented some of the region's finest symphonic choral works by the great classical composers – Mozart, Beethoven, Brahms, Bach, Vivaldi, Mendelssohn – and many more. In addition to performing masterworks by classical composers, the Chorale also includes more contemporary music in its programming – works by Bernstein, Vaughan Williams, Corigliano, Menotti and Rutter, and many others.

Recent performances in 2025/2026 include Bach’s Easter and Ascension Oratorio and Vaughan Williams’ *Dona Nobis Pacem* in collaboration with the New Britain Symphony Orchestra.

The FVC is proud to produce professional-level and memorable performances of choral music from the Baroque, Classical, Romantic, and Modern periods employing professional vocal soloists and instrumentalists, all of whom receive compensation. A history of the Chorale, as well as a list of concert repertoires are available on our website, www.farmingtonvalleychorale.org.

The Chorale rehearses on Sunday evenings from 7:00-9:00 p.m. in Simsbury. We retain a regular accompanist. During concert weeks, in which we have an orchestra, additional

rehearsals may be needed: a chorus-only rehearsal, an extended full dress rehearsal with orchestra and soloists, and possibly, an additional pre-concert rehearsal. All these are typically held in the concert venue.

The Farmington Valley Chorale is an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit organization funded by dues of Chorale members, ticket sales, grants, and donations from the singers and the Farmington Valley community and beyond. The FVC is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors that develops and implements policy and is responsible for the financial management of the organization. The FVC Board handles most of the logistical tasks for rehearsals and concerts as well as implementing fundraising throughout the year.