

Belfast Philharmonic Society

Associate Accompanist Bursary

The Bursary

Belfast Philharmonic Society wishes to provide a unique opportunity for a suitably qualified and enthusiastic pianist (Grade 8 or above) to develop or further develop the skills necessary to accompany a choir which works regularly with a professional orchestra. The successful candidate (the Associate Accompanist) will work with Christopher Bell, Conductor of the Choir and be coached by Stephen Doughty, Accompanist. Both are acknowledged experts in their field.

The position is for one season, and the bursary is £850.

What is involved?

The Associate Accompanist will be expected to attend 60% of the rehearsals for both choirs. Whilst schedules vary annually, this equates to approximately 20 rehearsals, held on Wednesday evenings.

Phil Kids (5.15pm – 6.45pm)

Repertoire (one or two short pieces) will be decided in advance and the Associate Accompanist expected to prepare it beforehand. Immediately prior to each rehearsal the Associate will meet with the Accompanist for approximately 20mins to talk/play through the repertoire. Following this the Associate will play as part of the Phil Kids rehearsal, and receive feedback at the end of the session.

Belfast Philharmonic (7.30pm – 9.45pm)

A similar process will be followed with the candidate being given notice in advance of a short extract they will be expected to accompany and receiving coaching and direction before playing as part of the rehearsal.

Support and feedback will be provided to ensure successful development.

The Associate Accompanist will also be expected to attend, but not accompany, the Conductor's Piano Rehearsal in the week of a concert to see the process involved in working as an accompanist with a new conductor at short notice.

Application Process

Candidate should complete the attached application form and return it to Belfast Philharmonic Society, PO Box 907, Holywood, BT18 8AD or by email to ethel@utvinternet.co.uk on or before 30 June 2009.

Belfast Philharmonic Society may carry out a shortlisting procedure. Successful candidates will be asked to audition. The audition piece will be provided by Belfast Philharmonic Society. Auditions will be carried out in September/October 2009 and will be conducted by the Chorus Director and Accompanist.



LOTTERY FUNDED

Belfast Philharmonic Society. PO Box 907, Holywood, BT18 8AD

Chairman: Ethel Ruddock Secretary: Gillian Rankin Treasurer: Brian Clements

Email: ethel@utvinternet.co.uk www.belfastphilharmonic.org.uk Tel: 07711987052

