

Director of Primo Coro, New Jersey Youth Chorus — Part Time

Position: Director, Primo Coro

Reports To: Founder & Director, New Jersey Youth Chorus

Schedule: Part-time, seasonal (July – June)

Salary: Competitive and commensurate with experience

The New Jersey Youth Chorus (NJYC), founded in 1992, is an auditioned choral program serving singers in grades 3–12 across northern and central New Jersey. NJYC is committed to providing exceptional choral music education and performance opportunities that foster artistry, confidence, and personal growth.

Primo Coro is an auditioned music exploration class for students in grades 3-5. The singing-based curriculum is focused on developing basic music literacy and vocal skills through engaging musical games, rhythmic activities, folk dancing/movement, visual learning, and simple percussion instruments. The ensemble repertoire focuses mainly on unison music, with an introduction to two-part singing through beginning canons. The program also emphasizes making new friends, building confidence, and the joy of singing together! Rehearsals are held weekly on Wednesdays from 4:15–5:45 PM in New Providence, NJ, with performances and events scheduled throughout the season.

Responsibilities:

Primo Coro Director is responsible for the artistic leadership, musical growth, and overall experience of singers in the ensemble. This educator-conductor will foster a positive and inclusive rehearsal environment while building foundational vocal technique, musicianship, and ensemble skills. The Director works collaboratively with the Artistic Director and administrative staff to deliver a high-quality educational and performance experience aligned with NJYC's mission.

Key Responsibilities:

- Artistic & Educational Leadership
- Plan and implement a sequential, age-appropriate choral curriculum
- Select engaging, high-quality repertoire representing diverse styles, cultures, and languages
- Conduct all weekly rehearsals and performances
- Foster healthy vocal development and strong foundational musicianship
- Create a supportive, inclusive, and inspiring ensemble culture

Programming & Performances:

- Prepare the ensemble for two major concerts annually and additional performances (2–4 per season)

- Collaborate on program planning in alignment with NJYC’s artistic vision and budget
 - Identify and support performance opportunities that enhance the ensemble experience
 - Participate in seasonal programming such as summer sessions or retreat weekends (as applicable) Student & Family Engagement
 - Communicate regularly with families through weekly updates and practice resources
 - Support recruitment and retention efforts, including auditions and outreach initiatives (e.g., “Bring a Friend” events)
 - Serve as a positive and professional ambassador for NJYC within the community
- Collaboration & Administration**
- Work closely with the Artistic Director and administrative team on ensemble needs and planning
 - Provide input for marketing materials, recruitment efforts, and program communications
 - Participate in auditions for prospective choristers (typically in spring)

Qualifications:

- Bachelor’s degree in Music Education, Choral Conducting, or a related field
- Experience teaching and/or conducting elementary or youth choirs
- Strong knowledge of vocal pedagogy for young singers
- Familiarity with Kodály-based instruction and/or solfège and rhythm systems (e.g., Takadimi) preferred
- Excellent classroom management and communication skills
- A collaborative, organized, and proactive approach to teaching and program development

To apply, please submit resume to jobs@whartonarts.org and patricia.joyce@whartonarts.org.