

Job announcement:

Avanti Chorus Director (domestic touring treble ensemble)



Ragazzi Boys Chorus (www.ragazzi.org), the San Francisco Bay Area's largest choral organization for boys, seeks an inspired and vibrant Chorus Director to lead its domestic touring treble chorus, Avanti.

The Avanti chorus is made up of approximately 38 boys in grades 4–8. They are honing their musical skills with the goal of advancing to our top treble ensemble, Concert Group. The Avanti boys have been singing with the program for at least two years. The season culminates in a domestic tour in early summer 2021.

Ragazzi will begin its 33rd season under the artistic and administrative leadership of Kent Jue. We provide exceptional educational and performance opportunities for boys in the art of choral singing. Our thriving organization serves over 250 boys and young men, ages 6–18, from 100 schools and 30 cities. Boys progress through six tiered ensembles as they achieve musical and developmental benchmarks. We empower our choristers to create positive change in their communities and develop young men of character and distinction. Ragazzi produces its own concert series and regularly collaborates with such ensembles as the San Francisco Symphony, San Francisco Opera, Symphony Silicon Valley, and Opera San Jose. Ragazzi is supported by 18 teaching artists and six administrators. Our robust program includes a comprehensive theory program, a sleep-away camp, and annual tours.

Roles and responsibilities:

- In conjunction with the Artistic Director, plan and conduct twice-weekly engaging rehearsals that include vocal technique, sight-reading with moveable *do*, theory, performance practice, and repertoire (accompanist provided)
- Develop and foster a structured nurturing and joyful environment that creates enthusiasm for singing, the ensemble, and the Ragazzi program
- Communicate the Ragazzi philosophy clearly and effectively to boys and families, laying the groundwork for higher levels of commitment to the program
- Oversee standard repertoire: teach repertoire, set and communicate deadlines to families and boys, manage record-keeping, and work with mentors
- Teach adjunct classes as needed, including honor choir, special repertoire, and theory. (4:45–5:15p on rehearsal days)
- Send formal and informal evaluations, keeping boys and families abreast of progress
- Choose tour location and coordinate tour (in conjunction with tour manager)
- Prepare Avanti for segments of approximately 10 season performances

Strong candidates will possess the following preferred qualifications:

- Minimum of a bachelor's degree in music education, choral conducting, or music performance
- Strong knowledge of vocal production and choral technique
- Exemplary musicianship and teaching skills
- Kodály training with successful teaching application
- Three years of experience teaching choral music to children
- Outstanding written and oral communication skills
- Exceptional attention to detail and follow-through skills
- Ability to work with others in a collegial and collaborative way
- Passion for supporting boys and young men in the choral arts

Avanti calendar:

- Camp: July 22–August 1, 2020, Healdsburg, CA
- Regular rehearsals: September 9, 2020–June 6, 2021, Monday and Wednesday evenings, 4:30–8:00p (main rehearsal, 5:30-7:30p), Redwood City, CA
- Tour: Early summer 2021, location TBA

Compensation: Commensurate with experience. This is a part-time job. Benefits are not offered.

To apply: Please send a cover letter, a resume, three references, a short rehearsal and performance video link, and a recent concert program to Executive Director Kent Jue at kjue@ragazzi.org. Ragazzi Boys Chorus is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, age, national origin, disability, marital status, or sexual orientation.