

## **Conductor Job Description: Onoscatopoeia, the Hart House Jazz Choir**

**Mission Statement:** Onoscatopoeia, otherwise known as the Hart House Jazz Choir, is a 20 voice auditioned *a cappella* vocal ensemble that gives experienced musicians an opportunity to perform vocal jazz and contemporary music. In the past ten years since its creation, Onoscatopoeia has grown to become one of Toronto's most recognized collegiate musical organizations. Recently the group has taken its first steps toward international recognition competing in the semi-finals in the International Competition of Collegiate A cappella. Even though it is designated as a Jazz Choir, Onoscatopoeia does not limit itself to vocal jazz arrangements. Arrangements are selected from various musical genres including Motown, R&B, 80's and 90's pop. Repertoire is selected by the Executive Committee in consultation with the conductor. The conductor is also responsible for selecting an assistant conductor from the group. Under the mentorship of the conductor, this student assistant conductor assists at rehearsals and concerts. Onoscatopoeia is administered by an Executive Committee elected from within the group by its members. This committee oversees music selection, concert organization, budget, social outings, and other choir activities. All of the Jazz Choir's Executive Committee's affairs are facilitated by a Programme Advisor who is a staff member of Hart House; the conductor reports directly to this staff person. In addition, the conductor will be expected to work closely with the Executive Committee and assistant conductor. We thank all who apply.

Applicants should exhibit the following requirements:

### **Experience**

- Bachelor of music degree or equivalent professional training
- 3 years of conducting experience AND/OR involvement in an a cappella ensemble
- Fluent in the vocal jazz idiom and contemporary vocal styles (strong singing skills are essential)

- Ability to work with varying age groups especially university students
- Ability to work within a student based democratic committee framework

### **Time Commitment**

- The choir rehearses on Monday evenings from 5:30 to 7:40 pm. Each term (Sept-Dec and Jan-March) is comprised of approximately 10-12 rehearsals. There are two concerts per year at the end of November and March.
- On top of its own concerts, Onoscatopoeia is often asked to perform at additional venues including gallery openings, fundraisers, and university events; whenever possible, the conductor is expected to be present.
- The choir also attends a weekend rehearsal/retreat once a year and various social outings, though the conductor may attend these at his/her discretion.
- Although not a voting member on the Executive Committee, the conductor is invited and welcome to attend committee meetings.

### **Responsibilities**

- Audition a 20 member group in conjunction with the assistant conductor and Executive Secretary(head of the Executive Committee)
- Select and mentor an assistant conductor from the group
- Assist the committee in selecting appropriate repertoire
- Attend and facilitate one weekend rehearsal/retreat to Hart House Farm
- Liaise with Onoscatopoeia's Executive Committee and operate with its consensus, and within its mandate and budget

### **Remuneration**

- An honorarium will be granted for services provided

Hart House Jazz Choir Conductor Hiring Committee  
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**Please direct any questions to Carly Stasko at 416-978-6315  
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