

TEXAS CENTER FOR  
**ARTS** +  
ACADEMICS

Artistic Director – Texas Boys Choir

*A Timeless Tradition seeking its next Artistic Director*



## **About Texas Boys Choir**

### A TIMELESS TRADITION

Texas Boys Choir has earned its reputation as one of the best boychoirs in the world. Founded in 1946 and comprised of boy singers based in Fort Worth, Texas, the boys are divided into five choirs and average 50 to 60 performances per year with at least one domestic or international tour each year. As the recipient of two GRAMMY Awards, among many other accolades, Texas Center for Arts + Academics is proud to be an esteemed steward and advocate in preserving the choral artform while managing Texas Boys Choir.

### A BEAUTIFUL ARTFORM

Since the Middle Ages, Boys' choirs have played an instrumental role in the advancement of musical arrangement and choral artistry. The evolution of textured music we still enjoy today originates with all-male choirs that first used a dominant melodic voice accompanied by chords, harmony, or instrumental layers. To hear this music in the middle ages was sacred. To hear this music now, instantly captivates, uplifts, and moves. To carry on this rich legacy of disciplined performance, vocal talent, and cultural significance, boychoirs are comprised of young men, aged 7-18, who possess musical ability and love of music. Boychoirs offer these young men and their families a valuable point of entry into music or vocal training. In addition to the rigors of rehearsing and performing, young men in boychoirs enter a strong peer community that fosters discipline, honor, high standards, and cultural awareness.



### A UNIQUE EXPERIENCE

Texas Boys Choir's mission is to provide any boy, regardless of background, a structured environment to learn the fundamentals of world-class vocal performance. All Texas Boys Choir members attend Fort Worth Academy of Fine Arts. This college-preparatory, public charter school is repeatedly named one of the highest-rated charter schools in the state with a 100% graduation rate, proving that the excellence instilled in choir members translates beyond the stage. Their enrollment at Fort Worth Academy of Fine Arts makes it possible for Texas Boys Choir rehearsals to be incorporated into their daily school schedule, and for their academics to remain uninterrupted while they tour. Having the opportunity to tour even during the school year, opens the door for a rich academic and musical education supplemented by cross-cultural lessons, exposure to diverse perspectives, and necessary collaboration and peer support.

## LEGACY

Since the first rehearsal of Texas Boys Choir in 1946, they exhibited unmatched talents and have repeatedly proven themselves worthy of the legacy of one of the best boychoirs in the world. Texas Boys Choir has toured worldwide since the 1950s, performing on four continents and in such esteemed places as Carnegie Hall, St. Marks Basilica, and Radio City Music Hall. Throughout the years, the choir has sung for popes, presidents, kings, and other heads of state. With over 40 professional recordings, Texas Boys Choir continues to earn its reputation as one of the world's premier boychoirs. Each of our current singers shoulder this reputation and know that are directly contributing to that legacy and history of choral, academic, and personal excellence.

## MUSIC LITERACY & TECHNIQUE

Texas Boys Choir singers learn the fundamentals of music literacy, sight-reading, and vocal technique. Building upon core musical concepts, singers receive rigorous classroom instruction and individualized instruction to help accelerate their understanding of musical and professional concepts. The boys perform music as a mixed SATB ensemble and both a Treble and a Men's ensemble becoming exposed to various levels of music concepts. The choir maintains a heavy performance schedule, with an average of 50 to 60 performances yearly.

## BROTHERHOOD & COMMUNITY

Texas Boys Choir is comprised of young men who are instilled with a love of music, self-discipline, and teamwork. The singers create lifelong bonds of brotherhood as they learn together, travel together, and hold each other accountable as they pursue common goals. During formative years of development, being part of this group establishes bonds of brotherhood, unity, trust, expanded horizons, and peer support that carry with them far beyond each performance or rehearsal.

## ***About TCA+A and FWAFA***

Texas Center for Arts + Academics (TCA+A) is dedicated to inspiring young people through an arts-based, academic world view. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, TCA+A supports two nationally ranked charter schools serving over 1000 students, the GRAMMY award-winning Texas Boys Choir, and several after school artistic conservatories. TCA+A believes that fostering artistic expression in children is a worthy endeavor that produces empathic, well rounded adults and creative thinkers.

In 2001, the organization opened its first public charter school, Fort Worth Academy of Fine Arts (FWAFA). FWAFA is a unique environment designed to provide the best of both worlds under one roof: professional artistic training and nationally recognized academic and college preparatory programs for students in grades 3 through 12. In addition to a rigorous classroom schedule, students receive training in dance, music, theater, and the visual arts. Admission to FWAFA is by audition and current enrollment for 2021-22 is at 650.

## Job Description

**Position Title:** Texas Boys Choir Artistic Director

**Reports to:** President | CEO and Principal

**Department:** Fine Arts – Music

**Position Summary:** The Texas Boys Choir Artistic Director is a member of Texas Center for Arts + Academic's (TCA+A) leadership team; and, is responsible for providing the highest quality music experience and training by facilitating positive student, family, and community growth through guidance and role modeling. In addition to developing artistic programs, this individual serves as a faculty member of Fort Worth Academy of Fine Arts, teaching Texas Boys Choir and other choir-related courses as scheduled. In collaboration with faculty and administration, the Texas Boys Choir Artistic Director will support the organization's mission through repertoire selection and curriculum development in alignment with Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) and the National Core Arts Standards. The Texas Boys Choir Artistic Director will play an integral role in the marketing, community relations, and strategic positioning of Texas Boys Choir ensuring its continued growth and development.

As an integral member of the Choir Artistic Director Leadership Team, the Texas Boys Choir Artistic Director will work collaboratively with the Singing Girls of Texas Artistic Director and the Children's Choir of Texas Artistic Director to share workload and collaborate on partnerships, strategies, growth, and development for all TCA+A's choirs. It is imperative that a team, collaborative approach is implemented, and that goals, progress, and success are measured to ensure the growth and development of all TCA+A choir programs.

**Position Profile:** TCA+A seeks an Artistic Director who will continue to build upon the legacy of excellence in providing any boy—regardless of socioeconomic or ethnic background—a structured environment in which to learn the fundamentals of world-class vocal performance. This individual will teach, challenge, and inspire the boychoir members. Unique in its environment, resident choir members attend Fort Worth Academy of Fine Arts, a public charter school that enrolls talented students by audition.

Day-to-day, choir members receive training and direction in general musicianship, vocal technique, choral collaboration, performing for and engaging with an audience, and self-discipline. Music history and theory are also woven into the curriculum to ensure each boy increases his cultural and music literacy.

For choir members, mid-year voice changes require an Artistic Director who understands and is sensitive to the physiology, emotions, and overall wellbeing of the singers as they go through this transition. Ensemble placement is for the duration of the school year, so modifications may be required to ensure that each boy continues to receive training and performance experience after his voice changes. The Artistic Director will serve the needs of the individual choir member while maintaining the vision for the choir as a whole.

Repertoire should include selections of choral/vocal compositions from throughout history in

general—and music written for boychoirs specifically—while also exploring music from the world’s cultures, including modern and contemporary pieces. Ideally, the program should be made up of a vibrant and diverse blend of complex and interesting musical selections that are academic, explorative, and entertaining for the choir and its audience. In addition to exposing our community to the work of choral masterpieces, our efforts should be to engage and create a passion for choral music in all its forms. The Artistic Director will be strategic-minded and detail-oriented. Additionally, this individual will be self-aware and flexible, with a sense of humor and have great passion for collaboration.

Duties will include expanding partnerships internally with other fine arts groups and externally with arts and community organizations. Texas Boys Choir seeks to launch satellite after-school programs throughout the region, and the Artistic Director will lead in this initiative to develop the necessary relationships to achieve this goal.

**Essential Job Function:**

- Instruction
  - Lead daily choral rehearsals and music instruction for Texas Boys Choir (Tour, Training, Young Mens’ Ensemble, Trebles, and Troubadours) members in grades 3-12
  - Create and implement effective lesson plans that promote the highest levels of choral and general musicianship
  - Prepare and lead students in concerts and events, on campus, in the community, and abroad
  - Regular collaboration with the Director of Choral Operations, campus Principal, President/CEO, along with and cross-support of Singing Girls of Texas Choir and Children’s Choir of Texas to ensure growth and success of all choirs
  - Collaborate with other faculty to create curriculum, select appropriate musical material, and design creative learning opportunities for students
  - Plan and implement a week-long summer camp for students
  - Attend staff meetings and professional development as required
- Leadership
  - Articulate and implement tangible plans that are aspirational and achievable, guided by the organization’s mission, and in alignment with its values
  - Design an effective and award-winning program for choral training
  - Actively work as a committee member on assigned Strategic Plan efforts
  - Coordinate and Collaborate other choir staff, contract musicians, et al. as assigned
  - Provide timely coordination and communication with the production team
  - Advisory to Texas Boys Choir Parents Club
  - Serve on campus instructional leadership team
  - Co-sponsor Tri-M Honor Society
- Public Relations
  - Create and maintain positive communication with administration, staff, faculty, choir members, and parents



- Plan and implement touring and concert options, including domestic travel, international travel, weddings, and other contracted engagements
- Be an active and visible member of the community
- Develop positive relationships with others in the artistic community
- Partner with the President|CEO and the Development and Communications Team in support of fundraising, marketing/communications, strategic partnerships, and outreach initiatives

**Essential Job Requirements:**

*Education* – Master’s degree required with a concentration in Music, Choral Conducting, or Music Education. Teacher certification or Highly Qualified designation required.

*Experience* – minimum five years’ experience choral conducting and program management required. Eight or more years’ experience conducting boy choirs or children’s choirs preferred.

*Required Skills and Capabilities* – fine artistic skills as vocalist, choral director, and conductor; demonstrated proficiency on a secondary instrument, preferably piano; experience using Kodaly method; strong classroom management skills; proven experience positively working with children and youth; ability to work collaboratively with a diverse team; excellent verbal and written communication; significant evening/weekend performance commitments, as well as travel for touring activities

- *Preferred Skills and Capabilities* – proven experience collaborating with others to develop interdisciplinary artistic products
- *Physical Requirements* – ability to carry up to 25 lbs.; valid driver license

**Position Category:** 12-month contract, exempt, full-time

**To Apply:**

- Interested applicants should review the position profile, job description, and organization summary.
- Submit the following documents via email to [paul.gravley@artsacademics.org](mailto:paul.gravley@artsacademics.org)
  - Cover letter
  - Artistic statement, including philosophy and approach to conducting and educating students, program development, and repertoire selection
  - Resume/CV
- Applicants may follow up with Executive Assistant [penny.clay@artsacademics.org](mailto:penny.clay@artsacademics.org) or at 817-766-2390 to confirm receipt of their application materials.
- Prepare, but hold for submission upon request:
  - Audio/video files of performances
  - Composition/arrangement samples
  - Other multi-media presentations

**Next Steps:**

- Selected applicants will be contacted to submit additional materials and to schedule an interview. First-round interviews may be conducted via videoconference for non-local candidates. Multiple interviews and leading the boys in rehearsal will be a preferred part of the candidate review.
- Professional references will be requested from applicants after first-round interviews in order to advance to the second round.
- We hope to have a new Artistic Director selected and in place by July 1 to go on a Florida tour with TBC July 5-12, 2022.