Conductor Internship Programme Application and Audition Guidelines (2026)

This document outlines what is required for your 2026 Conductor Internship application and audition.

General Information
The Conductor Internship Programme runs every summer in conjunction with the Ontario Youth Choir and provides an opportunity for emerging choral conductors to work with a renowned guest conductor and provincial honour choir. For 2026, two successful applicants will work closely under the guidance of the guest conductor, directing the choir in rehearsals, sectionals, conducting selected repertoire, participating in masterclasses, and more. The program offers mentorship as well as hands-on podium experience and development of practical skills. Other responsibilities include (location permitting) assisting with repertoire selection, chorister auditions, and participating in OYC's outreach events.

The Conducting Intern will stay in residence with the Ontario Youth Choir and travel with the group during its tour. Participants will work under conductor Jean-Sébastien Vallée. Applicants must be Ontario residents, have completed their undergraduate music degree or equivalent and have received conductor training as part of their education.

The conductor's responsibilities include studying and learning the scores before arriving and working with others to make the Ontario Youth Choir experience a valuable one for all. The fee of $1,200 includes conducting lessons and masterclasses, sheet music, residence accommodation, meals, tour travel and a concert recording (if applicable). Conductors are responsible for their travel costs to and from the program location.

Audition/Application Information
Applications for the Conductor Internship Programme will be by video submission. The application period will commence *January 5, 2026* and conclude *April 10, 2026*.

Applicants will be contacted and informed of the status of their acceptance into the program beginning May 2026 upon review of their application material. Applications will be reviewed by the OYC Conductor. Applicants might be contacted during the application period for additional materials or information.

Following review of all applications, selected applicants will be chosen for an interview. All individuals who apply will be contacted directly regarding the outcome of the process.

The deadline for applications is April 10, 2026. The successful applicant will be announced on or in May 2026.

If you encounter any challenges, require any additional information or assistance, please contact info@choirsontario.org.

Step 1: Application & Submission Instructions
Please note: Since a video submission is required, please make sure to test your equipment before making your recording. Expensive equipment is not required - a cell phone is sufficient provided you ensure good quality audio and video quality.

All video audition submissions will consist of the following (each element may be recorded separately):

1. *Conducting Footage*: 20 minutes of conducting footage is required for this application. Footage should include both rehearsal and performance conducting. Ideally, footage will include:
    a. 10-15 minutes of rehearsal showing your conducting and rehearsal technique.
    b. 5-10 minutes of performance (can be different repertoire from that on the rehearsal recording.
    c. The footage may also include 5-10 minutes of the applicant conducting in class and/or participating in a conducting workshop.

2. *Singing: One (1) solo piece,* in any language, that shows your best vocal qualities. You may have piano accompaniment or sing unaccompanied. Please do not use a pre-recorded accompaniment track. The purpose of this submission will be to showcase yourself as a singer and your general approach to singing.

Video Requirements:

- Video should be posted as an unlisted video or playlist to YouTube (or similar platform).
- Video titles should be formatted as follows: "2026 Conductor Internship Application - (your name)".

Step 2: Interviews

Following the review of all applications, selected applicants will be chosen for an interview. Interviews will be conducted via zoom and scheduled on a rolling basis.

Materials to Submit:

The following should be completed and/or submitted electronically when submitting the Application Form and Video/Document Submissions, no later than **April 10, 2026**. Document files should be provided in .pdf format.

- ☐ **Letter of Interest**, describing your interest in the Conductor Internship Programme. The letter can discuss topics at your discretion, but should include answers to the following questions:
    1. Why do you want to work with the Ontario Youth Choir? What do you believe that you can gain from the opportunity and how do you intend to use this experience? Why should you be a successful candidate? (1250 characters maximum).
    2. How will you support the 2026 Conductor both pedagogically and in building a community of 40 singers with a diverse skill level and backgrounds? (750 characters maximum).
    3. Is there anything else that you would like Choirs Ontario and the OYC Conductor to know, as they consider your application? (750 characters maximum).
- ☐ The **link(s) to your video(s)** on YouTube or similar platform.
- ☐ A **signed letter of recommendation** from someone who knows you and your work as a conductor/choral leader, emailed directly to info@choirsontario.org.
- ☐ A detailed **CV / Résumé**, outlining your choral conducting education and experience. Document should be saved with title, "[Last Name, First Name - CV/Résumé]"
- ☐ A **List of Repertoire** conducted, representative of the works you have studied and led in performance. Categorize this list by works studied, works rehearsed, and works conducted in performance. Additional categories can be indicated. Document should be saved with title, "[Last Name, First Name - Repertoire List]"

A direct link to the 2026 Conductor Intern Application Form can be found here → https://forms.gle/fq3kt86cKqM43WbM7

If you have any questions or difficulties during any point in the application/audition process, and/or if any of these steps - including finances, is a barrier for you, please contact info@choirsontario.org.

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