POLICY & PROCEDURES

Guest Conductor Nomination Process

Policy Number: OP-002
Effective Date: June 2026
Approved by: Board of Directors
Original Approval Date: June 15, 2026
Review Date: Annually

PURPOSE OF POLICY

The Choirs Ontario Programming Committee will meet annually - each summer, to invite selected nominees for the roles of Guest Conductor of the Ontario Youth Choir, Ontario Youth Treble Festival, SingOntario festivals, and any other significant public programming for the upcoming season.

Candidates for these roles can be nominated through a dual-stream process. Choirs Ontario will maintain an open nomination call on its website, accessible to all our members. In addition, all members of the committee may nominate one candidate of their choosing for each role. All nominees will be considered by the committee. Choirs Ontario will maintain records of past nominations, which will also be taken into consideration.

PROCEDURES

The Programming Committee will consist of:

- Choirs Ontario President, Past-President, and President-Elect
- One other member of the Board of Directors
- One external evaluator who is a recognized senior member of the field
- One past conductor of OYC
- One conductor of a participating ensemble in OYTF

The Programming Committee will propose a first and second choice nominee for each guest conductor role which will be presented to the Board of Directors for ratification.

As part of its deliberations, the committee will consider nominees':

- Performance, educational, and research/creative profile
- Local, regional, national, and/or international reach
- Relevant experience with age range/voice type for the opportunity
- Repertoire breadth and/or focus
- Language fluency
- Experience working with specific populations/demographics/communities
- Examples of artistic/community impact and/or pedagogical focus as appropriate

Additionally, the committee may also consider:

- Balancing opportunities for Ontario and Canadian-based choral professionals with opportunities to bring in international guests
- Extending invitations up to two seasons in advance to secure guest conductors' schedules.
- Soliciting additional information from potential guest conductors, such as an example program or artistic statement, before making a final decision.
- Available financial resources of the organization

Members of Choirs Ontario's Board of Directors are ineligible to be considered as nominees for guest conductor roles.