

Choir Leader for Octagon Memory Choir

Job Specification

POSITION:	Choir Leader
CONTRACT:	Part-time, 2 hours per week (term-time)
RATE OF PAY:	£50 per hour
HOURS:	Octagon Memory Choir sessions are 1.5 hours in length, but we require the leader to be present 15 minutes before the session, and for 15 minutes afterwards. The rate of pay includes planning and travel.
LOCATION:	Westlands Entertainment Venue, Yeovil, BA20 2DD
START DATE:	Weekly sessions (term-time) to start in January 2026, Friday's 11am-12:30pm. Plus 1-hour Taster Sessions dates and times to be mutually agreed.

ABOUT THE ROLE:

The Octagon Theatre & Westlands Entertainment Venue in partnership with The Alzheimer's Society and Somerset NHS Foundation Trust are looking for an energetic and enthusiastic Choir Leader to deliver weekly inclusive singing workshops for people living with dementia or memory challenges and their carers. A pianist will work alongside you at the tasters and all weekly sessions.

Our new Octagon Memory Choir will run at Westlands Entertainment Venue as part of our Arts for Health & Wellbeing programme. The choir will aim to support emotional, cognitive, and social wellbeing, reduce isolation, and provide respite through joyful, inclusive musical engagement. The chosen Choir Leader and Pianist will work together to plan and deliver engaging and varied sessions using music from a wide variety of genres, appropriate for the group and tailored to the needs and interests of the participants. The Choir Leader alongside the Pianist and organisation will be responsible for providing appropriate support for participants and volunteers, supporting the collation of feedback and updating registers with attendance where required.

The right candidate will have proven choir leading capabilities and excellent communication skills to help improve wellbeing and boost confidence in our older singers. The appointed choir lead and pianist will receive development training to support and engage people living with dementia and to lead a dementia friendly choir.

The Choir Leader will also be required to deliver taster sessions to community groups to drive recruitment and promotion of the weekly sessions. Timings of the taster sessions will be mutually agreed between the Choir Leader and organisation.

CANDIDATE SPECIFICATION:

<i>Experience</i>	<i>Essential / Desirable</i>
Experience of leading a professional and/or community choir	Essential
Experience of planning suitable repertoire to inspire and motivate older singers and/or those with Dementia or memory challenges	Essential
Experience of building relationships with community groups, members and partner organisations	Desirable
Experience of working with older people and/or those living with Dementia	Desirable

<i>Key Skills</i>	<i>Essential / Desirable</i>
Strong choir leading skills including appropriate vocal warm-ups	Essential
Strong interpersonal skills; motivating, energising and inspiring in sessions	Essential
Exceptional written and verbal communication with a friendly, approachable and professional manner	Essential
The ability to plan engaging and varied sessions independently	Essential
The ability to represent the company in a professional manner and be well presented at all times	Essential
Well organised and punctual	Essential
Ability to travel for recruitment taster workshops	Essential
Willingness to work additional hours if required	Essential
Ability to play the piano (if the pianist is absent)	Desirable

Knowledge	Essential / Desirable
Sound musical knowledge	Essential
Good knowledge of inclusive practices	Essential
An understanding of the importance of maintaining records securely and of adhering to legal requirements on safeguarding, privacy and data security	Essential
An understanding that we are an organisation who is passionate about our people and understands that richness of diversity is integral to providing the best possible services to our audiences.	Essential

Note: This Job Description reflects the current situation. It does not preclude change or development that might be required in the future.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

To apply, please electronically submit your CV and covering letter (2 pages max) to Katherine Beverley, Arts Engagement & Outreach Manager, katherine.beverley@somerset.gov.uk no quoting your name and **Octagon Memory Choir Leader** in the subject heading. In your cover letter please explain your suitability for the role and why it is of interest to you. Applications to be received no later than **midnight, 16th October 2025**.

Please include details of **two referees**. We will only call for references after a successful interview/audition.

For this role shortlisted candidates will be invited to an interview followed by a practical session where we would like you to lead a 15-minute section of a rehearsal to a small group who have not sung together before. We will ask shortlisted candidates to lead a short session, teach a warm-up and then a song/s of your choice within the time.

Deadline for applications: **midnight, Thursday 16th October 2025**

Interviews/audition: **Friday 31st October 2025**

We particularly welcome applications from people from diverse backgrounds and who represent the communities in which we deliver our work.

Any offer to a successful candidate will be conditional upon:

- Receipt of at least two independent written references.
- Verification of identity and Right to Work in the UK to be produced at interview stage.
- This post requires a DBS criminal background check via the Disclosure procedure.

For an informal chat about the role, you can contact Katherine Bevelerly, Arts Engagement & Outreach Manager, on 01935 462415 or by email at Katherine.beverley@somerset.gov.uk