



## **Stage Director job description**

We are looking for our next Stage Director for the 2026-2027 Bristol Opera season for the proposed production of Puccini's 'La Boheme' the run is scheduled for three nights (April 3-10 2027) at Redland Theatre at The Redmaids' High School, Westbury on Trym, Bristol. In addition, the company is staging a production of Purcell's 'Dido and Aeneas' in summer 2027 (venue to be announced). The Stage Director can be appointed for the main opera in April only, or may wish to consider directing the second opera as well to provide continuity.

Interviews will be held in person with members of the Bristol Opera committee in July during which we would welcome an outline of your initial vision for this production both in terms of its interpretation and potential staging.

Applicants should provide a CV and any other supporting material demonstrating evidence of recent experience directing fully staged, adult oriented productions where music has played a significant part in those performances.

The Director will be expected to provide artistic leadership working alongside a nominated Producer from within the company, our permanent Musical Director, and with principals and chorus members who will come with a range of acting and singing experience.

Appointments for the post of Director will be made for the period of the production(s) only.

Following appointment, the Director will be expected to carry out a range of activities to support Bristol Opera stage a high-quality production of its chosen work(s), thrive as a non-professional company and educate its members and principals by developing their stage craft and performance skills.

For context, applicants will find the history of our past productions useful on the Bristol Opera [website](#).

Duties will include, but may not be limited to, the following areas:

### **Operational**

- Reporting to the Producer weekly during the rehearsal period, and the wider Committee at least monthly.
- Presenting to the committee and the wider company the Director's vision for the selected opera(s) including demonstrating a clear understanding of the story, meaning, and musical genre, and how these will be interpreted and produced with artistic integrity and excitement.

- Representing Bristol Opera externally (or arrange to delegate as agreed by the committee) with media outlets and through social media, and regionally at award events where applicable.
- Seeking ways to promote Bristol Opera to a wider audience supporting its commercial success as a registered charity, and community engagement
- Working alongside the Producer to oversee budgets and manage operations to include the following areas: performance fees, rehearsal and theatre hire, publicity, programmes, costumes, set construction, lighting and AV requirements.
- Producing a post-production SWOT analysis or equivalent to inform the company's development and plans for continuous improvement.

## **Rehearsals**

- Outlining rehearsal requirements and overall production schedules in conjunction with the Producer and Musical Director.
- Blocking of scenes, running all blocking rehearsals including technical and dress rehearsals during the run.
- Arranging additional separate rehearsals for principals through the Producer.
- Taking a pro-active approach to working collaboratively with the Producer, Musical Director, Chair and Vice-Chair to ensure the effective use of rehearsal time and maximising limited resources leading up to production week.

## **Principals**

- Cast and hold auditions of principals working with the Musical Director and at least two members of the committee.

## **Artistic Direction requirements**

- Be responsible for all artistic decisions related to the production reporting to the Producer, Chair, and Vice Chair.
- Delegate musical decisions to the Musical Director and, where applicable: choreographic decisions to the Choreographer, set construction decisions to the Set Construction Manager, Technical lighting decisions to the lighting technicians, Costume design decisions to the Costume Designer while still retaining responsibility for the overall artistic quality and consistency of the production.
- Delegate to an Assistant Director or Stage Manager approved by the committee, and any portion of the Director responsibilities as appropriate for artistic and operational reasons.

## **Technical requirements**

- Survey the performance space for technical production elements/capabilities and serve as a link to the Producer, production staff, and the theatre staff on technical issues.
- Work with the Set Construction Manager on technical construction requirements and implementation of the scenery during the production.
- Work with the Set Construction manager to obtain and set up any technical theatre elements (pyrotechnics, fog machine, etc.) of the production outside of those maintained by the theatre itself. Any unbudgeted expenditure must be discussed with the Producer.
- Work with the Producer and Set Construction Manager to ensure chorus safety including oversight of any required risk assessments and safeguarding requirements.
- Develop lighting design based on the set design and vision and survey of production space lighting capabilities. This may be deferred in whole or in part to the in-house or external lighting designer and team.
- Work with the in-house or external lighting team to ensure lighting design is implemented correctly and safely including oversight of any required risk assessments.

## **Set Design and Costumes**

- Provide the vision by working with the set construction manager and what will be both technically and financially feasible based on the status of the company's set construction talent pool and budget.
- Adhere to the set construction budget with the Producer, Set Construction Manager and wider committee for approval.
- Delegate the set construction schedule to the Set Construction Manager
- Working with the Producer, oversee and monitor the progress of scenery construction with the Set Construction Manager including delivery of the scenery to and from the theatre.
- Work in collaboration with the Costume Designer to ensure the dressing of the chorus and principles align with the production's overall artistic vision, its musical integrity, and any staging logistics at the theatre.

**Rehearsals take place on a Thursday evening from October to April with blocking rehearsals typically starting in December for the main production in April. Further rehearsals take place on Sunday afternoons with principals, and for the whole company usually around 6 weeks prior to the performance date. Rehearsals for the second production tbc.**

**There is a £1000 honorarium provided for the Director for the production(s).**

**CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS IS MONDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2026**