

**CALL FOR  
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR/  
PRINCIPAL CONDUCTOR**



## ABOUT THE COMPANY

The National Agency for the Performing Arts is governed by a Board of Directors and a Chairperson, while being managed by an Executive Head, a Director of Administration and three Artistic Directors. This ensures that the artistic vision, development, brand, and identity of KorMalta, TeatruMalta and ŻfinMalta are distinct, clear-cut and in progress.

The three entities will each produce a yearly stand-alone artistic programme, whilst also collaborate on coproduction projects for a local and international audience, representing the Maltese performing arts sector on an international level, and guaranteeing a strong curated and consolidated national calendar for the local performing arts sector. This remit will include a strategy for creating synergies with other Public Cultural Organisations (PCOs) as well as the private sector.

Set up in 2023 the Agency aims to become the national go-to agency for the Performing Arts, creating debate, focusing on Theatre, Dance and Choir Singing, whilst producing work which reaches a national level of excellence through working on artistic processes of excellence within the communities and available educational channels. Thus, the Agency will also develop new audiences for the performing arts and continue to strengthen available ones, thus improving audience growth and engagement and participation, and also act as a catalyst for new talent through strengthened national connections with the educational sector.

Founded in 2018, KorMalta has undertaken intense work to make the national choir a qualified choral group, meeting even the most demanding and the widest range of choral repertoire.

The Choir has presented a number of highly acclaimed performances, namely Beethoven's Ninth Symphony under the baton of Brian Schembri and in collaboration with the Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir, Holst's The Planets conducted by Michalis Economou, Mozart's Great Mass in C minor conducted by Peter Manning, Jenkin's The Armed Man conducted by Michael Laus, Faure's Requiem directed by Riccardo Bianchi and Bernstein's Chichester Psalms directed by Wayne Marshall. In February 2019, saw the participation of KorMalta together with the Malta Philharmonic Orchestra, in the live performance of the soundtrack of the Disney's Film Beauty and the Beast.



In the operatic field, 2020 KorMalta performed in Rossini's *Otello* and in 2022 it proudly participated in the staging of *Le Maschere* by Pietro Mascagni, together with the renowned Filarmonica Arturo Toscanini, under the baton of Jacopo Brusa within the prestigious Illica Festival.

In addition to collaborations with the national orchestra, the choir has collaborated closely with the Valletta Baroque Ensemble, performing over the years critical acclaimed productions within the prestigious Valletta International Baroque Festival, including Biber's *Requiem* conducted by Stefano Molardi, Handel's *Messiah* directed by Christian Curnin and Buxtehude's *Membra Jesu Nostri* conducted by Riccardo Bianchi.

During the last two musical seasons the choir, consisting of 56 members and directed by its artistic director, worked on numerous a cappella projects spanning a wide range of repertoires from polyphony to the contemporary. Recent engagements included William Byrd and Italian Renaissance motets and medieval polyphony in a concert inspired by Dante's *La Divina Commedia*, a cappella performances of Xenakis' *A Helena*, together with music by Pizzetti and Castelnuovo Tedesco as part of the Malta International Spring Festival.

The most stylistic trait of KorMalta is the musical eclecticism and the propensity to collaborate with other art forms, creating innovative performances with the collaboration of visual artists, actors and dancers, as in the case of the iconic performance of *The Sunrise Mass* by Ola Gjeilo performed at dawn at the Megalithic Temples of Mnajdra in collaboration with the national dance company ZfinMalta, in collaboration with Heritage Malta.



## CORE RESPONSIBILITIES

The Artistic Director/Choral Leader forms part of the National Agency for Performing Arts Executive Team and will be 'required to':

- Contribute to the creation of a rolling three-year artistic and development strategy for the company in collaboration with the Executive Head and Director for Administration (Finance and Operations Director) while considering current national cultural policies. The three-year framework must cover artistic productions, touring, education and participation programme, audience development and artist development
- Collaborate with the NAPA Executive team, including the Artistic Directors for ŻfinMalta and TeatruMalta to contribute towards the mission of the Agency;
- Create and articulate a programme that expresses the vision, mission and the goals of the company in consultation with the Executive Head and working with partners and in collaboration with key stakeholders;
- Together with the Administration Executive (KorMalta) provide artistic leadership to KorMalta
- Oversee and direct artistic activity for KorMalta;
- Research and select collaborators to work with the company whose work they consider innovative, creative and appropriate to the vision and size and technical specifications of KorMalta;
- Negotiate commissions terms with collaborators together with the Executive Administration (KorMalta) and NAPA Executive Head and Director for Administration (Finance and Operations Director);
- Articulate the programme for funding and collaborate with officer in charge of attaining funding from funding bodies and sponsors;
- Lead opportunities and coordinate sessions for the artistic development of chorister and voice leaders
- Rehearse with the Core members as required
- Compile periodic activity reports and present them to the Board through the Executive Head
- Define in collaboration with the Administration Executive (KorMalta) the budget for each production and project to realise the artistic vision and strategic framework within budgetary parameters;
- Act as a spokesperson for the organisation's artistic purpose via speaking engagements, public and social appearances, and, as may be requested, from time to time;

- The Artistic Director/ Principal Conductor collaborates with the Executive Head and Director for Administration to recruit choristers, voice leaders and musicians
- Together with the Executive Head raise the profile of the company by working with venues and presenters to build relationships on a national and international level;
- Act as company spokesperson for the media and attend media calls as required;
- Develop and schedule the Choir's annual programme of events encompassing the widest possible forms of artistic expression with the aim of reaching people of all ages and from all social groups whatever their cultural background;
- Foster positive working relations, at local, national and international level, with other public companies/organisations, institutions, foundations and productions houses by encouraging collaborative activities where appropriate and to facilitate the Company's vision;
- Together with Administration Executive (KorMalta) oversee work schedules and assigning of duties for artistic and technical staff;
- Prepare and conduct the Chorus musically and linguistically including the teaching from scratch to the point of memorization.
- Ongoing evaluation of the performance of choristers.
- Encourage the best possible standards of performance from the Chorus.
- Attend Chorus performances, including tours and extra-curricular activities (recordings and concerts) as required.
- Off-stage conducting.
- Be prepared to substitute Orchestra Conductor if needed.
- Liaise with Music Library concerning the preparation of chorus scores.
- Provide to choristers a good vocal technique and voice training.
- Organise masterclasses in order to develop the study of a specific repertoire involving internationally renowned singers and conductors.
- The ability to undertake musical preparation work in major European languages.
- Work as a 5 répétiteur for Kor Malta if necessary. For example, playing for principal auditions, performing stage duties, and coaching principal artists. Undertake pit work if necessary.
- Organise music calls and ensure schedules, allow sufficient preparation to meet required deadlines.
- Support the Administration Executive (KorMalta) in the management of the Chorus.
- Continually seek to develop and improve working practices and systems.



- Build an effective team providing support, supervision, and motivation, and as far as possible ensure high morale.
- Encourage the development of the Chorus and their artistic skills, assessing and recommending training as appropriate.



## **ORGANISATION STRUCTURE**

The Artistic Director/Choral Leader forms part of the Executive Team for the National Agency for the Performing Arts. Other members include the Executive Head, the Director for Administration, responsible for the operations and financial activity of the Agency and the Artistic Directors for ŻfinMalta and Teatru Malta, the additional two companies forming part of the Agency. The Artistic Directors report to the Executive Head and Director for Administration.

## **WORKING CONDITIONS**

A Contract for Service will be awarded for three years with the possibility to renew. The Artistic Director/Choral Leader will be required to work late or on weekends or public holidays to meet deadlines and may be required to attend technical rehearsals, to supervise and assist in the technical aspects of productions and events.

The working hours are flexible, based on mutual agreement with the Executive Head.

The salary package is €30,000 per annum excluding VAT.



## KNOWLEDGE/SKILLS REQUIRED

### *Essential*

Applicants must have:

- A recognized qualification at MQF Level 7 in Choral Conducting and Choral Composition.
- A recognized qualification at MQF Level 6 in Orchestra Conducting
- A Grade 8 as a pianist/accompanist

### *Desirable:*

- Specific studies in Counterpoint to a high standard (MQF Level 5), the experience of playing for professional chorus preparation and rehearsal, excellent knowledge of the choral repertoire, the experience of choral and opera chorus conducting, an understanding of the working practices of a major theatre
- Commitment to the cultural development of Malta in line with the National Cultural Policy;
- A proven record of having either curated, produced or provided consultancy work in the international sector
- Ability to communicate effectively in Maltese and English





Applications must be submitted via email on [christabel.borg-preca@zfinmalta.mt](mailto:christabel.borg-preca@zfinmalta.mt) by the 29<sup>th</sup> October 2023. Applications must include:

- CV
- covering letter
- portfolio
- Two references

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to an interview with the selection committee where applicants will be asked to present their vision for the Company for the short and medium term.