

## Artistic Director

### *Position Description*

Founded in 1952, Revv52 is Calgary's longest-standing organized arts group, performing in front of thousands of enthusiastic fans at concerts and private functions every year. Revv52's Mission is to expand the boundaries of artistic performance by showcasing quality and innovative choral musical experiences for our audiences, while nurturing a love of music and fostering a caring environment among our members.

Revv52 is an auditioned group of over 50 high-quality singers who are passionate and dedicate their free time to the love of singing and performing. With their live band, Revv52 performs at least two sets of concerts each year at the incredible Bella Concert Hall at Mount Royal University in Calgary, featuring custom-arranged songs from the last 6 decades of pop music. Revv52 recently launched a second, smaller group called ReMix: *Powered by Revv52* to meet the growing demands for experiencing Revv52 at private functions and smaller venues.

Revv52 is searching for a new **Artistic Director** beginning in the 2019-2020 season to replace Brian Farrell, who has dedicated the past 24 years to inspire, challenge, develop and grow Revv52. Revv52 desires a new Artistic Director who can respect the incredible work Brian has already accomplished, and then further develop the group to new levels within its artistic and market focus. The ideal candidate has at least 5 *years* of experience in choral conducting and vocal coaching. They should be ready to challenge Revv52's passionate singers to reach greater levels of artistic quality, all the while continuing to provide highly entertaining and energetic concerts for our audiences. Candidates who can provide the following critical skills will be the most desirable for this unique position in the Calgary arts community:

- **Understanding of vocal styles:** Revv52 presents selections from pop, rock, blues, gospel, funk, latin...often all within the same concert. The singers need to be rehearsed in the style so it's authentic to the audience.
- **A master of vocal technique:** Some of Calgary's best amateur singers are in Revv52, but everyone needs coaching to stretch to another level. Vocal placement, tone, breathing, and developing vocal versatility are attributes to be coached at every rehearsal with the group, and 1-on-1 with our singers. We have to detect vocal sound issues in the group quickly, and fix them on the spot – this is just good rehearsing.
- **Living the story of the song:** The story is everything. Far beyond dwelling on the notes and rhythms; the audience responds best when the story is well told. It's essential this comes out at every rehearsal.
- **Experience with performing musicians:** The Revv52 band consists of some of the best players in Calgary. They're professionals who need to work together with the singers to provide the groove and musical foundation of the song. Prior experience as a band member or band leader to know how to relate, integrate, and create musical magic with others is a big asset to this role.
- **Getting the word out:** Revv52 is a special group of people that can drive an audience's energy "through the roof". The word needs to get around town, and around the country, that Revv52 wants to perform – a lot. Connecting with people and groups to get more opportunities to improve the brand is critical to our future.
- **Creating new artistic leaps:** Our performances show the risks we take artistically, and Revv52 audiences always expect something new. Open up the opportunities to challenge our singers and our band, challenge our audience, challenge our city, and challenge the world.
- **Be tech savvy:** Work with our arrangers, singers and volunteers efficiently by being a master of the tools of the trade. Arranging and recording experience helps streamline rehearsing, and helps make us unique.
- **Be organized:** The backbone of Revv52 are paid professionals and volunteers, all coming together with hectic schedules. Working effectively by being responsive and accountable to the bigger team is essential.

If you've got the experience and want a creative challenge that will be fueled by passionate singers and musicians, visit [www.revv52.com](http://www.revv52.com) to learn more about us and submit your resume to [info@revv52.com](mailto:info@revv52.com).

<b><u>Title:</u></b>	<b>ARTISTIC DIRECTOR</b>
<b><u>Reports to:</u></b>	Revv52's Board of Directors
<b><u>Purpose of Position:</u></b>	To lead the artistic direction of Revv52 in pursuit of its Mission.
<b><u>Time Commitment:</u></b>	Approximately 0.20-0.40 FTE hourly contract position. Rehearsals take place weekly on Wednesday evenings at Youth Singers of Calgary. Some all-day workshops, band rehearsals and performances occur on weekends. The schedule is determined well in advance in June, for the following year starting in September and ending in May.
<b><u>Compensation:</u></b>	Commensurate with experience.

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## **Major Responsibilities:**

### **Design, coordinate, and direct all Revv52 programming (75%)**

- Conduct annual auditions for returning members, and new members as required to balance the group.
- Design the Revv52 concert performances including: theme development, selection of music, band organization, staging and lighting strategy, movement strategy, use of external guests, etc.
- Manage the creation of custom arrangements or use of arrangements in print for each concert's music; work closely with the band to create band arrangements distinct to Revv52.
- Assist in organizing the annual rehearsal and performance schedules for Revv52's major concert events; when required, assist in organizing any private concerts for Revv52 and ReMix: *Powered by Revv52*.
- Conduct weekly and weekend workshop rehearsals to prepare the Members and the Band for Revv52 concerts. Coach all ReMix rehearsals.
- Audition, select and coach soloists and small group ensembles for specific songs in each show.
- Identify and hire workshop presenters for vocal clinics and other workshops to provide variety and new learning opportunities for members and the community where applicable.
- Recommend technicians and professional performers, including the band and rehearsal accompanist, for hire by Revv52 for concerts and rehearsal requirements.
- Work closely with the production staff to ensure technical needs, venue requirements, blocking, costuming, and staging details run smoothly.

### **Supervise music-related staff and volunteers (10%)**

- Collaborate closely with the Revv52 Rehearsal Accompanist, ensuring productive rehearsals.
- Identify, coach, and supervise the activities of Revv52 Section Leaders; communicate regularly with Section Leaders regarding vocal issues, repertoire to cover in upcoming sectionals and other musical needs.
- Lead the development of the 3-year artistic plan and coordinate the activity of the Revv52 Board in the fulfillment of the plan.

### **Development and Finances (5%)**

- Participate in the development of the annual artistic budget in collaboration with the Revv52 Finance Committee.
- Participate and provide input to the committees regarding Marketing and Development projects aligned to Revv52's 3-year artistic plan, and to the Revv52 Board for the strategic plan.

**Communicate regularly with the Board (5%)**

- Attend monthly Board meetings as requested, and provide an update on progress; provide input as required for various Board initiatives.
- Attend and provide input for any Board-organized strategic planning sessions.

**Participate in local community influence organizations and professional development (5%)**

- Be a Revv52 representative for Alberta Foundation for the Arts, Calgary Arts Development, and other Foundations in Calgary that influence the arts as agreed to with the Board, and local arts organizations (ie. Calgary Stampede, Banff School of Fine Arts, etc) which could positively influence performance opportunities for Revv52.
- Maintain and update personal professional competence by attending workshops, classes and conferences as approved by the Revv52 Board.
- Enhance relationships with other choral organizations in Calgary, Alberta and Canada and influential national arts organizations to raise Revv52's artistic profile.

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**Attributes Revv52 needs in an Artistic Director:**

- Proven leadership skills, in particular through the rehearsal process
- An over-the-top passion for music, especially popular music, and a constant desire to learn more about it
- Advanced Degree in Music with an emphasis in vocal coaching, choral conducting or equivalent musical conducting experience (minimum 5 years).
- A positive and caring attitude for Revv52's Members and professionals, recognizing their volunteer contribution and their personal passion for Revv52's Mission
- Experience working in a high-performance collaborative team environment, demonstrating flexibility in working with a diverse group of volunteers and personalities.
- Specific experience conducting a non-professional chorus is an asset, although everyone in Revv52 strives to be professional in every way
- Experience in building and executing a strategic, flexible and rolling 3-year artistic plan.
- Strong communication skills, both written and verbal.
- An exceptional ability to work within electronic mediums: email, social media, recording technologies, arranging technologies, etc.