

Position: MUSIC DIRECTOR (MD) and VOCAL DIRECTOR (VD)

Job Description: The Music Director (MD) will assist the Director and other audition panel members in the casting of the show, offering counsel from a music perspective. Once the show is cast, the MD is responsible for coordinating the selection and teaching of all the music in the show. Song selection is done in consultation with the cast and director and choices may be subject to board approval. The MD is also responsible for putting the band together and rehearsing them. *sometimes the MD has appointed a “band leader” separate of themselves to lead band rehearsals.

Tasks during the rehearsal process include:

- Attending auditions and helping select the best possible cast
- Running music rehearsals (VD)
- Assembling a band and rehearsing with them as necessary
- Working with the cast ,director and PLAYERS board to make sure the best possible songs are chosen
- Setting up in the Band Space
- Keeping communication lines open (via the SM) ensuring everyone on the team is clear of any changes to schedule, music, locations etc.

Tasks during Run of Show include: (Assuming you’re in the band too)

- Setting up the band each night
- Running a vocal warm up
- Helping as needed with sound checks both for band and cast
- Helping monitor actors’ beer consumption – I.e. strategic use of the “drinking song”
- Drinking beer (making sure you can keep yourself together until the end of the show of course!)

Time Commitment: One full day (minimum) of auditions in March; Several Prod. Team meetings in advance of rehearsal (1st read through, production schedule etc) in early April. Once rehearsals begin (as per the agreed upon production schedule) the Music Director is usually responsible to run one rehearsal (4-5 hours) on the weekend. While everyone will have their own process, a good deal of prep work is required in order to make use of the limited time you have to teach and polish everything you need to. You will also be required to attend Prod. Team meetings (one every couple of weeks). Once the band is assembled, there will be several rehearsals with just the Band led by the MD. The week the show opens, count on it owning pretty much all your time (outside of your regular job) including 1 full tech day (usually a Sunday) and late night rehearsals leading up to opening. Assuming you are also playing in the band, you will be there for all performances (Wed-Sat in week one, and Thurs – Sat in week two). *Times and dates are subject to change at the discretion of the Prod. Team and PLAYERS Board

Rehearsal Process: The MD will have to coordinate with whomever is in charge of Choreography to split up rehearsal time between music and choreography such that the cast will have ample opportunity to learn and practice both elements. For the music rehearsals, a fair amount of prep time is required for each one. The lead vocalist of a given song is largely responsible to learn their music and lyrics themselves, with support from the MD as required. The MD must teach and rehearse all backing vocals and harmonies for each song (there are typically 13 in a PLAYERS show). It is strongly recommended

that each cast member have access to recordings of all the harmonies they are responsible for, the MD should facilitate this.

Production Meetings: The MD is required to attend all production meetings to report on the progress of music rehearsals, communicate any issues that need attention from the Director, Producer(s) and/or PLAYERS Board.

Personal Time: The MD should arrive at each rehearsal knowing which songs will be worked on. He or She should know the songs inside and out, and have already worked out and assigned the harmonies. The amount of prep time required will vary depending on the MD but you should expect to work on each song for about an hour before you are ready to teach and rehearse it.

Run of Show: Evenings and weekends for the better part of two weeks for Tech and Performances. Especially if you're in the band!

Toughest Part: Singing will not always be every cast member's first strength. The MD must assess the individual abilities of the cast and help each of them reach their potential while doing what is best for the overall show.

Best Part: The music is such an integral part of a great PLAYERS show – the audience response for a well chosen and executed tune is huge. The MD gets to create 10 Rock Stars and then play in the band for each of them.

Recommended Skills or Experience: Musical Direction (and Vocal coaching) experience on at least 2 other productions. Organisation, confidence, strong people management skills and an ability to keep calm in stressful situations.

Why it's worth it: First and foremost it's quite possibly the best time you've ever had working on a show. It's also an excellent opportunity for an MD credit. If you like beer, that's gonna work out pretty well for you too.