



Sir Alexander Gibson Fellowship for Choral Conductors

Job Title:	Sir Alexander Gibson Fellow
Reports to:	Chorus Director & Chorus Manager
Salary	£3000 plus £500 travel bursary

RSNO Overview

The RSNO is Scotland's national symphony orchestra and one of the five National Performing Companies, supported by the Scottish Government. The RSNO is a symbol of Scottish cultural excellence. Established in 1891, it continues to deliver the highest quality musical experience and enjoyment throughout Scotland, which has been shared by generations.

RSNO Chorus

The Royal Scottish National Orchestra Chorus is Scotland's leading symphonic chorus, singing numerous concerts annually with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra.

Members of the RSNO Chorus are all amateur singers, but the level of performance and the speed at which they are required to learn repertoire means that the level of ability of the singers is high. Membership of the Chorus is by audition, and singers are also regularly re-assessed.

Stephen Doughty was appointed Director of the RSNO Chorus in 2022. Over a career of some 30 years, he has a large amount of experience working with choirs and amateur choruses at all levels and is also in demand as an accompanist and an arranger/ orchestrator.

Sir Alexander Gibson Fellowship

Sir Alexander Gibson CBE (1926-1995) was the Royal Scottish National Orchestra's longest-serving Principal Conductor and Music Director, from 1959 until 1984, and the first Scot to be appointed to the position. He was instrumental in the formation of the Royal Scottish National Orchestra Chorus. He did much to encourage and develop music in Scotland at all levels, and in particular gave his support to those keen to learn. It is therefore appropriate that this Fellowship should bear his name.

About the Role

The Sir Alexander Gibson Fellowship is open to anyone interested in furthering his or her experience of choral conducting, in particular working with a large symphonic chorus. The Fellowship offers the recipient a remuneration of £3,000 per annum and a travel bursary of up to £500.

The role offers a unique opportunity to work at a very high level with the fine and capable RSNO Chorus and its Chorus Director.

The Gibson Fellow's commitment will include attendance at a significant number of Wednesday evening rehearsals, at the discretion of the Chorus Director, at the RSNO Centre in Glasgow. The

Fellow will also be expected to attend all Conductor's Piano Rehearsals and Orchestral Rehearsals, which normally take place during a concert week, as well as performances of the RSNO Chorus.

An opportunity to observe and work with the RSNO Youth Chorus and RSNO Chorus Academy could also be available to suitable candidates. The Fellowship will initially last for one Season, from September 2026 to June 2027, with the option of an extension for a further Season, pending discussions with the Chorus Director and the Director of Artistic Planning.

Recipients of the Fellowship will benefit from mentoring on the following:

- Preparation of scores
- Rehearsal technique
- Working with the Chorus as a whole and in sections (as necessary)

Flexibility will be built in to suit the needs of the recipient, the RSNO Chorus and its Chorus Director.

Repertoire in 2026:27

During the 2026:27 Season, the RSNO Chorus will perform the following repertoire:

- November: Verdi – Requiem
- December: RSNO Christmas Concert
- January: Handel – Messiah
- March: Orff – Carmina Burana & Sir James MacMillan – Timotheus, Bacchus and Cecilia (Scottish premiere)
- April: Ravel – Daphnis et Chloé
- May: Mahler – Symphony No3
- June: Video Games Music in Concert

The Gibson Memorial Fellowship Candidate should have prior experience of choral conducting. The position is particularly suitable for a developing conductor, rather than one purely seeking further experience in choral conducting. The Chorus Director will draw up a short list from the applicants and those who are successful will be invited for interview, followed by an opportunity to rehearse the RSNO Chorus in a selection of music which will be notified in advance.

Assessment of these performances will be held by the RSNO's Chief Executive, RSNO Chorus Director, Chair of the RSNO Chorus Committee and Chorus members.

Please note that previous holders of the Fellowship are not eligible to apply.

How to apply

To apply, please email as a PDF the following documents to Christine Walker, Chorus Manager at chorus@rsno.org.uk:

- your current CV
- a covering letter, containing the details of two professional referees and links to video content (e.g. YouTube) showing you conducting and/or taking a rehearsal

Closing date Monday 27 April 2026, 12pm

Interviews Wednesday 13 May 2026 at the RSNO Centre, 19 Killermont Street Glasgow G2 3NX