Middle and Upper School Choral Music Teacher

About The Birch Wathen Lenox School

Since 1916, BWL, a K–12, co-educational, college preparatory independent school, has stood out on the Upper East Side of Manhattan as one of the most close-knit institutions the big city has to offer its most promising young people. Inside our unassuming brownstone building is a beyond-supportive community of experienced educators and devoted families who are committed to a mission of fostering growth and celebrating the individual differences of every student. To find out more, visit **www.bwl.org**.

Position Description

We are seeking an enthusiastic, dynamic, and experienced full-time **Middle and Upper School Choral Music Teacher** to join our faculty. The ideal candidate will have a strong background in choral music education, experience teaching vocal ensembles across multiple grade levels, excellent piano skills, and a passion for inspiring young musicians. This individual will teach Upper School A Cappella and Vocal Ensemble, Middle School choral classes, fifth-grade chorus, and the third- through fifth-grade chorus. They will also provide piano accompaniment for all choral ensembles and collaborate with the Lower School General Music Teacher by providing piano support and assisting with select general music classes.

The successful candidate will be a skilled musician and engaging educator who can develop students' vocal technique, musicianship, confidence, and collaborative skills while fostering a love of singing. The ability to create and adapt arrangements for a variety of voices and instruments, particularly vocals and strings, is a significant plus.

This individual must be a self-starter who also appreciates working as part of a team of musicians and educators. The teacher will report directly to the Chair of the Performing Arts Department and the Directors of the Upper and Middle School.

Choral Music Responsibilities

- Teach and direct Upper School A Cappella and Vocal Ensemble, all Middle School choral classes, fifth-grade chorus, and the third- through fifth-grade chorus.
- Develop students' vocal technique, sight-singing, part-singing, blend, balance, diction, musicianship, and stage presence.
- Select engaging, developmentally appropriate, and musically diverse repertoire that reflects a variety of musical styles and traditions.
- Accompany all choral ensembles on piano during classes, rehearsals, and performances.

- Prepare ensembles for performances, including the Holiday Arts Festival, spring concert, community events, assemblies, and other school functions.
- Promote healthy vocal technique, vocal health, and appropriate rehearsal and performance etiquette.
- Create and adapt vocal arrangements and instrumental accompaniments as needed. The ability to arrange music for multiple voices and instruments, including strings, is a significant plus.
- Foster a collaborative and supportive rehearsal environment that encourages musical growth, creativity, and confident performance.
- Assess student progress and provide constructive feedback to support individual and ensemble development.

Lower School Music Collaboration

- Collaborate with the Lower School General Music Teacher to support the musical development of Lower School students.
- Provide piano accompaniment and other piano-related support for Lower School general music classes and musicals as needed.
- Assist with select Lower School general music classes, working collaboratively with the General Music Teacher to support classroom instruction and student engagement.
- Coordinate with Lower School faculty as needed to support musical activities, performances, and school-wide events.

Overall Teaching and Professional Responsibilities

- Foster an inclusive, respectful, and joyful learning environment that supports students of varying abilities, backgrounds, and musical experiences.
- Collaborate with classroom teachers and performing arts faculty to support interdisciplinary learning and school-wide programming.
- Communicate with families regarding student progress and ensemble performances as appropriate.
- Participate in professional development, faculty meetings, department meetings, and school-wide events.
- Meet with Department Chairs and assigned mentors as needed to plan instruction, align expectations, and support professional growth.
- Attend faculty, department, and team meetings as required.

Additional Responsibilities Include

- Proctoring study halls and lunch duty.
- Monitoring hallways and stairwells.

- Attending evening Admissions events as needed.
- Attending overnight trips.

Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree in Music Education, Choral Conducting, Vocal Performance, or a related field; advanced degree preferred.
- Experience teaching choral music and directing vocal ensembles, preferably in an elementary, middle, or high school setting.
- **Strong piano proficiency is required**, including the ability to accompany vocal ensembles effectively in rehearsals and performances.
- Knowledge of vocal technique, choral pedagogy, sight-singing, and ensemble instruction.
- Ability to teach students across a range of ages, musical abilities, and experience levels.
- Strong organizational, communication, and classroom management skills.
- Commitment to equity, inclusion, and culturally responsive teaching.
- Experience arranging music for multiple voices and instruments is a significant plus.
- Experience directing contemporary a cappella, vocal ensembles, or student performance groups is preferred.
- Familiarity with a variety of musical styles, including classical, musical theatre, jazz, pop, and contemporary repertoire, is preferred.
- Experience in an independent school environment is preferred.

The Birch Wathen Lenox School is an equal-opportunity employer committed to excellence through diversity and inclusion. The School does not discriminate on the basis of age, immigration or citizenship status, race or color, disability, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, national origin, pregnancy, religion or creed, height and weight, military or veteran status, predisposing genetic characteristics, marital status, sexual or reproductive health decisions, employment status, credit history, caregiver/parent status, or status as a victim or survivor of domestic violence, sex offenses, or stalking. All employment decisions are made on the individual merits of each applicant.

Salary Range: 70,000 - 90,000

Birch Wathen Lenox has an excellent benefits package, including health insurance mostly paid by the employer and a retirement account with employer match. The full benefits package will be shared early in the interview process.

Contact:

Emily Freilicher, Performing Arts Chair: **efreilicher@gbwl.org**