



LLANFAIR SINGERS – Friendship through Music

A Guide for Members

Experience

Llanfair Singers is a non-auditioned choir. No previous experience is required. However, you must be able to learn a part by rote if unable to read music and to be able to keep to your part within your group. You will have good support from other singers in your section and there are also midweek sectional practices which would enable you to gain more confidence if required. Attendance at midweek practices is voluntary.

Probationary Period

There is a probationary period of three months which begins at the first rehearsal attended. After this period the committee will very much hope to be able to confirm your membership.

Subscriptions

Subscriptions are payable to the Choir Treasurer Peter Sherman (tel. 01547 530530) at the beginning of the new season in September and there is a sliding scale for those joining during the choir year. The annual subscription is £25 per annum, £15 if joining after Christmas, £10 if joining after Easter. Please talk to the treasurer in confidence if you have any difficulty with paying the subscription.

Attendance

There is an expectation that attendance is regular. Fluctuating weekly numbers make the pace of learning slower for all and it is difficult for the conductor after planning the content of each rehearsal to have to change pieces because of a sudden drop in numbers of one particular part. The committee has agreed the following guidelines to which everyone should try to adhere. Absence through illness and unavoidable work commitments are not included in the attendance requirements. (However, it is widely believed that participating in regular singing helps to keep you fit!) The aim is follows:

- Autumn Term: 12/15 attendances
- Spring and Summer Terms: 20/26 attendances in total for the two terms

These have been combined because of the different times of Easter from year to year.

Where a Member is unable to achieve the above criteria, his or her participation in a service or concert will be at the discretion of the Director of Music in consultation with the Section Leader.



Rehearsals

Rehearsals take place from 7.30pm to 9.30pm at Everest Hall in Llanfair Waterline and at the Methodist Church Knighton on the first Friday of each month.

There is a coffee break at 8.30pm and members take it in turn to prepare coffee. Each member is given a coffee rota at the beginning of each term with details of duties.

Apologies

If you cannot attend a rehearsal please send your apologies to Pam Grounds (01547 528094) or pamgrounds@gmail.com

First Session

Please do not be nervous! You will be introduced to someone who sings in your section and who will help you to find your way during the first rehearsals.

Repertoire (the different music that we sing)

We sing a wide variety of music: religious, gospel, carols, hymns, psalms, Anglican church services; early; romantic; contemporary; pop; rock; folk; barbershop; operatic; show; compositions written specifically with the Singers in mind and anything else which appeals! Members are encouraged to suggest the repertoire, although the final decision lies with the conductor. All choices made should be respected and must be performed by all.

Music Copies

You are responsible for the safe-keeping of all music issued to you and for its prompt return when requested by the Librarians. Any lost or damaged music must be paid for. Please do not lend your music to anyone. Do not photocopy any music which is copyright.

Choir Dress

When performing, unless otherwise advised, choir dress is:

LADIES: Black ankle length skirt or trousers, white top and choir scarf

GENTLEMEN: Dark suit, white shirt and choir tie

Scarves and ties are obtainable from the Membership Secretary at a cost of £6 scarves £10 ties.

Voice Range

All voices are slightly different in range, tonal quality, power and intensity. However, as vocal music is most frequently written for women's (or girls'/unbroken boys') and men's higher and lower ranges, we normally sing in four 'voices:' Soprano, Alto, Tenor and Bass. If you do not know which voice to sing it does not matter? Come along and have a go! Graham Trew, our conductor, has wide experience of performing and teaching all styles of music and can help you to decide which part is the best for you. Graham is also available to give individual singing lessons.



Concerts

Prior to each concert the Director will inform choir members of the order of music to be sung and whether the choir uniform should be worn. Details of the venue and timing will be given. Transport arrangements are made with other choir members and lifts organised as needed.

We hope this guide is helpful and that you will enjoy being part of the Llanfair singers. If you need any help have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the Membership Secretary

Di Cosgrove on 01547 530347 or deedee151@hotmail.com