

Congratulations! Now you've joined Finchley Chamber Choir here are some more details...

Attendance at rehearsals...

...is what it's all about! We ask that members attend all rehearsals and arrive punctually, or if this is not possible, give apologies to the Secretary in advance. An absence book is available at every rehearsal to enable members to give advance notification. Members unable to attend a minimum of 75% of the rehearsals for a particular concert, or unable to attend the dress rehearsal on the concert day, will only be allowed to participate in the concert at the Conductor's discretion. It is also vital to bring a pencil to each rehearsal and to use it!

Our dress code...

...is fairly specific to make sure we look our best in a concert. Gentlemen should wear black dinner jackets, black trousers and black shoes, plain white dress shirt and a black bow tie. Ladies should wear all black: either an ankle-length dress or skirt, or trousers, with a blouse, black tights and black shoes. Some concerts are more relaxed and gentlemen might wear a black shirt and black trousers and ladies a coloured blouse and black skirt or trousers.

Our music...

...is hired from lending libraries. Members may occasionally be asked to contribute towards the hire or purchase of otherwise unobtainable items. Members are fully responsible for any music loaned to them and must return copies promptly to the Librarian. If music is lost or damaged, any costs will be charged to members. In the event that you have to withdraw from a performance or rehearsals, please return your music immediately.

Solo parts...

...are either allocated by the Conductor (in the case of smaller roles) or auditioned for. **Any paid-up member of the choir may audition for solos** as and when they come up — there is no system of probation before you are allowed to take a solo role.

The choir is run...

...by a **small committee** (elected at the AGM in October) which meets on average once a term and we will always welcome new members to this committee. Everyone helps with necessary tasks such as providing tea, coffee and cake during rehearsals, arranging audience refreshments, setting up and dismantling staging for concerts, and on concert days stapling programmes. We are a very egalitarian bunch!

Publicity...

...is designed each year giving details of the forthcoming season. We print flyers for each concert and ask members of the choir to distribute them to local shops and notice boards.

Members pay...

...an **annual subscription**, though for the convenience of members the annual amount can be split into three termly payments. If you have joined partway through the year, the Treasurer will work out a pro-rata amount. If making these payments is difficult, talk to the Chairman or Treasurer of the choir as concessions can be arranged for individual circumstances. If you pay income tax you will be asked to sign a Gift Aid form so that we can reclaim the tax. (Members who have not paid their subscriptions will not be allowed to sing in concerts.) Occasionally we may be asked for a contribution to music hire charges. The committee will do its best to make sure that this is restricted to exceptional circumstances only and that the charge is small, of the order of £5 for any single concert.

Please note that the subscription covers your participation in choir activities for the *full season* (September to July). If you are unable to perform in a concert we do not offer a refund.

We also make some income from singing at weddings, funerals and corporate events, from our twice-yearly gift stalls and from members shopping online through www.thegivingmachine.co.uk charity website. Ticket income is an important source of revenue (apart from the fact that no-one wants to sing to an empty hall) and choir members are expected to work hard at selling tickets for our concerts.

Privacy

When you join and during your membership we will inevitably collect a small amount of information about you. If you wish to see our privacy statement, which explains what we collect and how we safeguard it, please ask the Secretary.