

## **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!

### **Membership of the choir...**

...is by audition, and then reaudition every four years to assess each singer's ongoing contribution to the choir's sound. At both audition and reaudition, singers are expected to show competence in sight-reading, performing a prepared solo piece, and singing their part in pieces recently rehearsed or performed with the choir.

### **Our dress code...**

...is fairly specific to make sure we look our best in a concert. Gentlemen should wear a long-sleeved black shirt (with a black dinner jacket in colder weather, but no tie), black trousers and black shoes. Ladies should wear all black: a full-length long-sleeved dress, or a long-sleeved blouse with skirt or trousers, black tights and black shoes. (In hot summer weather, short sleeves and black sandals are accepted, and tights are optional.) For some concerts, gentlemen might wear a black dinner jacket with white shirt and black or red bow tie, and ladies might add a touch of red (jewellery, scarf, hair ornament etc).

### **Our music...**

...is hired from lending libraries. 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, or setting up and dismantling staging for concerts. We are a very egalitarian bunch!

### **Publicity...**

...for the choir and its forthcoming concert season is through our website, social media, and mailing list. We also 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**, which can optionally be split into three termly payments (for a slightly higher overall total). 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](http://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.