

Choir Expectations

We're all here to learn music and sing to the best of our ability in a fun, creative, and friendly atmosphere. This implies discipline, respect and politeness. When you join our community choir, you implicitly agree to:

Attend rehearsals & practice

Choral music is a team effort. Your section relies on most of its members attending regular rehearsals. Attend as many rehearsals as you can and check our newsletter and website to see what you may have missed. You can use the learning racks we provide to catch-up.

We employ a professional team to support us to learn and make progress together. Listen and be attentive to the MD (music director) during rehearsals and take their instructions on board. We sometimes learn section by section. It's easy to forget that low-level chatting is a distraction when other sections are learning their part. Be quiet and use the time to:

- look at the words and hear the rhythms
- sing your part (in your head) to practise it and get a sense of the harmony
- listen to what the MD is saying about dynamics and speed
- develop a sense of the structure of the piece

After rehearsals try to spend some time revisiting what has been covered and use the learning tracks or a recording you have made to support you.

Look after and return music scores

You will need to return any music scores provided to you. Our librarian(s) will let you know when you should return these. It is often after our last rehearsal or after the end of term concert. This allows the library team to rub out any marks and return the scores to our local community library.

You are welcome to mark your score with notes that help you remember what you've rehearsed or when the MD directs you to using **light pencil marks** to save the arms and sanity of our librarian(s) who have to rub out marks in hundreds of scores before returning them.

Provide constructive feedback

The committee are always interested to hear the views of choir members. There are a number of ways for members to provide feedback and suggestions:

- speak to your section mentor who can pass your views to the committee
- speak directly to a committee member during a rehearsal
- use the [website form](#) on the members menu

The committee will consider all views and suggestions at our regular meetings. Minutes of committee meetings are provided on the website.

Work with section mentors

The following people act as mentors for their section of the choir:

- Sheila Peace and Mary Crosser (sopranos)
- Sue Walker and Mandy Hood (altos)
- Rob Francis and Peter Campbell (tenor & bass)

Mentors rely on all members of their section to support them in welcoming and integrating new choir members.

Attend concerts and other performances

A community choir relies on most people being available to take part in our end of term concerts. We also need people who are willing to participate in other local performances such as carol singing.

You will need a black folder to use at concerts and if you're carol singing, a copy of 100 Carols for Choirs. Folders and carols books are available from a member of the committee at cost price: see [fees and payments](#) for a current price list

Consider how you speak to & about members

Do not deliberately upset or offend members of the choir or the volunteer committee by your words or actions.