

FAQs about singing with the chorus.

**What sort of music does the chorus sing?**

We sing a wide range of music from all periods and in many different styles. In one concert we might feature a substantial choral work, in another shorter pieces. In the last year we have sung music by composers as diverse as Rachmaninoff and George Shearing jazz arrangements. As our Christmas and Easter concerts are part of the Cathedral’s own programme of music for Christmas and Easter they always feature music from the Christian tradition.

**How many concerts do you perform a year, and where?**

We typically put on five concerts each year, mostly in and around Coventry. We sing in Coventry Cathedral at Easter and Christmas. Other concerts take place in the autumn and summer. When we take part in concerts further afield we often provide a coach, for which we ask for a £15 donation for chorus members and guests.

**Do I have to sing in every concert?**

We very much hope that you will, although we recognise there may be occasions when this is not possible

**Who sings in the chorus?**

The chorus has around 70 adult members from all walks of life, and varying faiths or none. We are drawn together by a love of singing and are excited by the challenge of performing it to a high standard. Many, but by no means all, have sung in choirs before, either at school, college, or church. We are an inclusive choir, and always strive to accommodate people who face challenges to participation.

**Where and when do you rehearse?**

Rehearsals take place in the Cathedral on Tuesday evenings between 7.15 and 9.30pm. There is also a rehearsal on either the night before a concert or in the afternoon of a performance. We start rehearsals with a short warm up, and then sing for around 45 minutes. After a short break which includes any information updates, (and occasionally, cake) we continue our learning. We always rehearse as a full choir.

We publish a rehearsal schedule which highlights any compulsory rehearsals along with the music you will need.

**Would I have to attend every rehearsal?**

We certainly hope that you will, although of course we understand that isn’t always possible. To maintain our high standards, we do expect members to attend 75% of rehearsals, including the pre-concert rehearsal, to sing in a concert. Most people also do some work on the music at home, and we’ll point you to on-line learning resources to help with this.

**Can I come to a rehearsal to see if the Chorus is for me?**

Yes, please do. The best time to do this is when we start to learn music for a concert: in September, January, and after the Easter holiday. Email [membership@coventrycathedralchorus.com](mailto:membership@coventrycathedralchorus.com) to find out more. Please let us know which voice part you sing and an indication of your experience of singing in a choir.

**Do I have to be able to read music?**

It’s a big help if you can read music, but not an absolute requirement.  If you don't read music, you'll need to do homework in-between rehearsals, listening to the music, to make sure you know your part.  We will also try to sit you next to a strong singer who can help you during rehearsals.

**Do I have to audition to join the choir?**

Yes. Once you have decided you want to join the chorus you’ll be invited to an audition with our Musical Director. This is informal, and lasts just a few minutes. The audition involves simple scales and exercises to establish your range and voice part. There will also be a short piece of sight reading, and singing a piece of your own choice. Many people choose a hymn for their audition. It’s very informal, so don’t let this put you off trying.

**Are there membership fees for the Chorus?**

There is an annual subscription of £130 (£40 for students) which can be paid either in full in September or in instalments. This runs for a full season from September to June. If you join during the season the fee will be adjusted accordingly. These subscriptions cover much of the running costs of the choir: payments to our Musical Director and accompanist; hire of rehearsal rooms, insurance.

**Do you provide music for the concerts?**

We try to make it easy for you to obtain music. Our Librarian will email a list of music required for each concert, and will order copies for you to buy. If only a few copies are requested you may be asked to source the music yourself. Sometimes members who are no longer singing with us donate music to the choir which we can loan out. These are offered to students first. You will also need a choir folder, which costs £5.

**What do members wear for concerts?**

Gentlemen usually wear a blacksuit, white shirt, and a black bowtie (alternatively a black shirt and red bowtie). Ladies wear a long black dress/skirt or trousers with a black blouse/jumper (alternative is a red blouse/jumper. Black shoes for everyone.

**How do I prepare on the day of a concert?**

Before each concert an events list is distributed giving a seating plan, information about rehearsal times, transport arrangements, music lists, concert dress and refreshment arrangements. Facilities for changing in private are very limited, so many singers choose to come ready dressed.

**Where else can I find out about the choir?**

As well as the website you can find more information and pictures on our Facebook, You Tube and Twitter accounts.