

News

January 2023

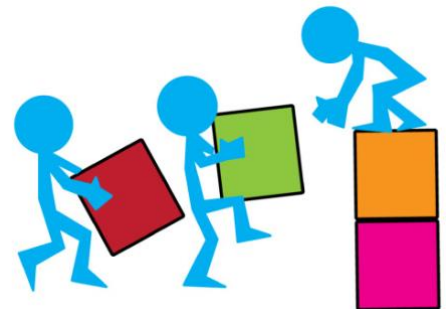
Set Up Teams

A big thanks.

We've trialled these with great success since last November. Every week a team of six of us come in for 6.45pm, make sure everything is in place for the rehearsal and put it all away again at the end.

A big thanks to each of you who have been a part of this. There are 18 of us altogether with six people in each team which means coming earlier every three weeks. In March we hope to extend this to four teams so that we only need to come early once every 4 weeks.

If you are not already on a team and able to get to Fraser Hall early once a month then you'd be sooo welcome to join us. Just let me or your Voice Rep. know.



AGM

22nd March

The AGM will be on Wednesday 22nd March. It'll take place from 7.30pm to 8.20pm. We'll break for a brew and then sing, sing, sing until 9.30pm.

It's at this meeting that we elect members of COGs (Crescendo Organising Group). This team of people, set up for the first-time last March, has met regularly throughout the year and does valuable work. Most vacancies are not fully known yet (see JobCentre)) and we'll let you know of these in February.

Card Payments

Flexible Friend

Unlike a lot of choirs, Crescendo goes for weekly payments rather than an annual or termly subscription. That means people only pay their membership fee when they come.

It also means that you have to regularly look for those very rare little £5 notes, use coins or hope that registration can change (which they often can) larger denominations. We are, though, going to try the introduction of card payments offering more than one way to pay - a choice of cash or card. The trial will begin on 3rd May.



Polo Shirts

Survey

On display or 'modelled' before Christmas as a possible uniform for concerts. A survey in January showed the general feeling to be - we like the idea of some sort of uniform - polo shirts are not smart enough.

Music

Music sorted

You will have noticed some changes to the Music Library over the last two weeks. There will never be any doubt that the most important part of our choir is you. Right up there, by a mile, your talent, dedication and enjoyment you bring to audiences gets the gold medal. And, in silver place, is the music we sing!

Moneywise music starts to add up because there must always be enough copies for all of us to have one each. For example, this year the PMLL Licence (giving us copyright permission to reproduce music) will cost £1,260. The average cost of music is about £1.75 per copy and, when ordering many copies like we do, it tots up.

So, the new system, now, is able to keep tabs on how many copies are issued and make sure, when stocks run low, we order more.



New members will be given a folder on the first night and expected to hand it in at the end of the evening. Once they have decided the choir is for them and they're going to stay (yippee), the music can be taken home.

Have you noticed how this new well-designed system (nothing to do with me) keeps each piece of music in a folder? This will protect it from damage and from being just bunged in a box (oh dear, now that *was* down to me!)

This super-duper service will be operated by Kathy and Lyndsey.

Use of Music

Safeguarding your investment

Some choirs have quite strict rules on loaning music. It's important to have systems in place to preserve it, and to make sure your subscription money is being used responsibly. We also need to be realistic, knowing that music needs to be personalized.

Once issued into your charge, the music is yours until such time as you leave. It's good practice to make notes in pencil or highlight (erasable highlighter) the music if it helps you follow or perform it better.

This new way of improving efficiency is in its infancy, so any thoughts for further improvements will be welcome. And remember to have a pencil handy at practice, just in case you want to write a pearl of wisdom down!



JobCentre

Vacancies

Two COG vacancies that we know about at the moment are:

1. **Public Relations Officer.** This is a new post and includes publicity and social media.
2. **Secretary** who amongst many things takes minutes of COG meetings and sends out information to us all.

Job Descriptions are available for both posts and if you think you may like to do either, ask Hannah for a copy.



Accompanists

If you know...

We're looking to add another accompanist to our music team. If you know of anyone who would be interested in joining us could you let me know.

2023 Concert

TBC

Arrangements are being made to confirm the venue. We'll let you know once this is sorted.

Rep Reports

Musicals

We've made tremendous progress in extending our repertoire since last May. This has included many of the songs chosen from our 60's vote. Soon we'll be starting two medleys called "I Will Always Love Whitney" and "A Tribute to Queen" and, we've still got *Say a Little Prayer* and *Bridge Over Troubled Waters* to look at.

We've been asked if we can include more musicals, including Disney, so that we can appeal to the families who come and listen to us. That's a great idea.

Arrangements of medleys such as the one we do with The Lion King seem scarce and if you know of any Disney (or medley from any well-loved musical) that you and our audiences will enjoy, let me or your voice rep know.

Don't Forget

Trax

Don't forget the TRAX are there for you so you can practice your voice part.

TRAX are available at: <http://www.derbycommunitychoir.com/> Find them by hovering your cursor over *Members* (along the top of the page) and then clicking on *Trax* in the drop-down menu. Choose the song you want to listen to and click on the button. You'll then be taken to the song files. If you need the password it's 'wicked'.

See y'all

Robin

