

CHELMSFORD MALE VOICE CHOIR (CMVC)

MEMBERSHIP GUIDANCE NOTES

Introduction.

1. Chelmsford Male Voice Choir (“the Choir”) is a Registered Charity whose stated purpose is “To promote, improve, develop and maintain public education in the appreciation of the art and science of choral music in all its aspects by the presentation of public choral concerts and by such other ways as the members, through the trustees, shall determine from time to time.” On a less formal note the Choir’s underlying purpose is to offer opportunities to those who are interested and keen to sing as part of a choir, as well as to meet and socialize with others of a like mind.
2. The Trustees (assisted by other members of the Committee) are responsible for the overall running of the choir, with each of them taking on nominated roles. The purpose of the choir is to study, practise, perform and enjoy a variety of music in a spirit of mutual friendship. The money raised from performances will contribute to charities and to the running of the choir.
3. The Choir has a minimum of formal Rules and Regulations (most of which can be found in its Constitution), instead relying on the following guidelines and the common sense of its members to ensure that the Choir is run correctly but in a spirit of friendly co-operation and comradeship.
4. CMVC is an inclusive choir; it does not adopt a policy of strict auditions and ongoing testing however it is right that the choir should expect its members to strive to achieve the highest standard possible and act accordingly:
 - 4.1. there is an expectation that members will make every effort to attend rehearsals and concerts. Where possible expected absence from rehearsals should be notified to the Secretary in advance.
 - 4.2. it is expected that members will endeavour to achieve at least a 80% rehearsal and concert attendance
 - 4.3. members are also required to learn their words and music at home in order to arrive at rehearsals and concerts well-prepared, so making rehearsals as effective as possible and being able to perform to the high standards that our audiences and fellow members and those who give their time to running the Choir are entitled to expect.

General:

All members:

1. must pay their subscriptions (currently £15 per quarter) on or before the due date and by such method as requested (any member experiencing difficulties paying their subscriptions should refer in the first instance to the Membership Secretary)
2. should be prepared to assist as required in the promotion and marketing of concerts / events / activities
3. must avoid making concert commitments on behalf of the choir without prior approval of the Committee

4. should acquaint themselves and act in accordance with the Choir's constitution (a copy of which is on the Choir's website)
5. Rehearsal and concert discipline (References to the MD include his / her Deputy as appropriate)

In addition to the expectations mentioned above members are expected to:

1. pay attention to the MD at all times during rehearsals and concerts (and to others such as guest performers) without talking amongst themselves or interrupting proceedings
2. act in accordance with instructions from the MD or their Section Head
3. pay attention while announcements are being made
4. dress correctly as instructed for concerts and other events and use sheet music (or other aids such as notes, etc.) only as directed by the MD
5. turn off mobile phones or other items that might distract members or interfere with the Choir's performance

Support for members:

The Choir has a long history of looking after its members, with the majority staying with the Choir for many years (including one who was with the Choir for over 50 years!). If you experience difficulties of any kind during your stay with the Choir, then please ask for help or support. Your first point of call should usually be your Section Head, who will do all they can to either assist you or identify someone else within the Choir who might be able to help. If you do not feel that you can ask your Section Head then please approach someone else in the Choir, preferably a member of the Committee.