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| The aim is that all Burford Singers should enjoy the experience of singing with the Choir. | |
| **From the Constitution**  “The objects of the Choir shall be to advance, promote, improve, develop and maintain public education in and appreciation of the art and science of music in all its aspects by the presentation of public concerts and recitals and to encourage and develop local amateur musical talents; and for the general purposes of such charitable bodies or for such other purposes as shall be exclusively charitable as the Trustees may from time to time decide.” | |
|  | **Membership and Subscriptions** |
| 1 | The Trustees must limit numbers in the Choir in each term to fit the size of the rehearsal room and concert platform, and will maintain an Associate List (see Section 6) *and* a waiting list of applicants for membership. |
| 2 | The membership year will run from 1st September to 31st August. Membership will begin on payment of the subscription, and will entitle members to attend and vote at general meetings held during that membership year, but members will only be entitled to attend rehearsals if they can sing in the concert at the end of that term. All membership expires at the end of each membership year. |
| 3 | It is the responsibility of each member to undertake annually in advance to sing at one, two or three concerts, to attend at least 75% of rehearsals for those concerts, and to pay the appropriate subscription. |
| 4 | It is the responsibility of each member to inform the Membership Secretary promptly if their plans for singing with the Choir change, and to cease attending rehearsals if they find they cannot sing in the concert that term. |
| 5 | The Trustees will conduct an annual review of membership in May/June each year, and will invite to rejoin the Choir, in priority order:   1. Full members who were invited to join for 3 terms in the previous year and who sang in at least one concert that year, and Life Members.   After 30th June in each year, if there are vacancies, an invitation may be issued to:   1. Associate members who were invited to join to fill short-term vacancies during the previous year 2. former members who have taken a whole year off from the Choir, and 3. applicants from the waiting list. |
| 6 | Applicants for membership will be drawn from the waiting list after consideration by the Music Director and Trustees, with a view to the relative strength of the voice sections, the ability of the applicants, and the length of time spent on the waiting list. Successful applicants will be placed on the Associate Members List and may be invited to sing in any term as and when a temporary vacancy occurs.  Applicants in full-time education will be given priority. |
| 7 | Applicants for membership will be required to undergo a voice assessment by the Music Director or to provide evidence of musical ability, and the same rule will apply to existing members of the Choir from time to time, at the discretion of the Music Director in consultation with the Trustees. |
| 8 | It is the responsibility of each member to offer help wherever possible with work for the Choir, e.g. preparation for concerts, fund-raising, administrative work, catering, advertising, website maintenance, programme preparation, etc. |
| 9 | Subscriptions will be set by the Trustees annually, and must be paid in advance. Singers in full-time education will be admitted free of charge. |
| 10 | Refunds will be given at the discretion of the Treasurer and the Trustees. PTO→ |

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|  | **Attendance at rehearsals** |
| 11 | It is the responsibility of each member of the Choir to attend punctually the 2-hour rehearsals, including rehearsals with orchestra, and workshops, and to sign the Choir register or ensure that his/her attendance is noted in the register, both in case of possible emergency evacuation of the rehearsal room, and to demonstrate the rate of attendance at rehearsals. |
| 12 | Only those members who have attended at least 75% of rehearsals including the final rehearsal will have the privilege of singing in the concert, unless the Music Director decides otherwise. Attendance at workshops will not count towards the 75% attendance rate. |
| 13 | The Trustees will appoint four Choir members to act as Heads of Section for Sopranos, Altos, Tenors and Basses, whose duties will be to attend voice assessments for their section, to welcome new members and help them settle into the Choir, and to relay information between the Trustees, the Music Director and their sections. |
|  | **Music** |
| 14 | The subscription will cover the cost of music used by the Choir, but members may buy their own music in the appropriate edition if they wish. |
| 15 | It is the responsibility of each member to study the music between rehearsals, and to bring a pencil to rehearsals. |
| 16 | Each member is responsible for returning his/her score(s) to the Librarian, and will be responsible for any cost to the Choir arising from loss of the score(s) or late return to the Librarian. |
|  | **Concerts** |
| 17 | Concerts will be held 3 times each year typically on a Sunday in autumn, spring and mid-summer. |
| 18 | Concert dress will normally be dinner jackets for men; for women, white long-sleeved blouses and ankle-length black skirts or trousers, with black jackets in cold weather. Occasionally the Music Director may decide on more informal dress for more informal concerts. |
| 19 | Members should not applaud the soloists and orchestra when standing to acknowledge applause, but may do so when sitting down after the first burst of applause. |
| 20 | Members should not take bottles of water on the concert platform. |
|  | **General Meetings (see paras 9 – 15 of the Constitution)** |
| 21 | The Annual General Meeting will be held during a rehearsal in the autumn term and at least 21 days’ notice must be given to members. |
| 22 | Committee members (Trustees) will be elected at the AGM, and nominations will be invited 21 days in advance, to be submitted to the Secretary at least 14 days before the meeting. |
| 23 | A Special General Meeting may be called at any time at 14 days notice in accordance with the Constitution of the Choir. |
|  | **For more information, please read the Constitution** |
| **Rehearsal CDs/tapes** are available from Choraline at [www.choraline.com](http://www.choraline.com), Saffron Choral, [www.saffronchoralprompt.co.uk](http://www.saffronchoralprompt.co.uk), or www.notebash.freeserve.co.uk. | |
| **Bad weather – note for information**. Please check with a Committee member before setting out. The Trustees will do their best to inform members of cancellation of rehearsals where possible. | |