



## GUIDANCE, GOOD PRACTICE, and ETHOS

The wording below is intended to clearly set out what is expected from members of Trinity Singers, so as to ensure that rehearsals are efficient and concerts presented to a high standard.

There will always be exceptions to any guidance and members should speak to either the Musical Director or Chair if there are issues which present themselves.

### CONCERTS AND OTHER EVENTS

The main objective of Trinity Singers is to work towards, and deliver, performances of choral music, covering a wide range of both sacred and secular repertoire in various concert venues and encompassing Church Services where appropriate.

In order to achieve that members are encouraged to participate in all Trinity Singers events, although it is accepted that this will not always be possible.

However, members are asked not to be selective in relation to the chosen repertoire or type of event. Any concerns should be discussed with the Musical Director or Chair.

### ATTENDANCE AT REHEARSALS

It is accepted that not everyone will be able to attend all rehearsals, but priority should be given to Trinity Singers on rehearsal nights.

If more than two rehearsals are missed in the preparation period for any concert or event, the singer must discuss their participation with the Musical Director who has total discretion in this matter. The MD may wish to assess the individual's level of knowledge of the planned repertoire before making any decision, but that decision is final.

It is important that the Musical Director knows what resources will be available for concerts, and also for rehearsals, so please ensure that you complete the "Availability Spreadsheet" and keep it up to date when requested. If you cannot make a rehearsal at the last minute please email or text both the MD and the Chair.

### REHEARSAL START TIMES

Normal weekly rehearsals start at 7.30 (confirmed by members as their preference).

Members are urged to be at the rehearsal venue at least five minutes prior to this in order that the MD can begin the rehearsal promptly.

## REHEARSAL SUPPORT

Where appropriate our MD provides support by way of CDs of rehearsal material, or links to online rehearsal files. Singers are asked to make maximum use of this support so as to minimise the need for “note bashing” in rehearsal time.

## REHEARSAL BREAKS

There will normally be a break of 15 minutes during a rehearsal, when facilities are available to make tea or coffee. This is operated on a rota system which is co-ordinated by Margaret Leimdorfer. Members are asked to “sign up” for one date per year to spread the load. Please bring your own mug / cup although there are spares available.

## END OF REHEARSAL – CHORISTERS PRAYER

At the end of rehearsals those singers who wish to will recite the Choristers’ Prayer (wording on our website). This is optional but recognises the origins of the choir and the preference expressed by many members. Those who do not wish to participate are asked to respect those who do.

## CONCERT DRESS CODE

The standard dress code for concerts is “All Black”.

For men this may include jackets depending on the venue, but no ties.

For Ladies, this means dresses or skirts to calf length or longer, or trousers, and sleeves to below the elbow.

If any embellishment is specified, such as a coloured bow tie or scarves, it will be made clear what colours are appropriate.

For special occasions (Evensongs, Carols, Weddings) it may be decided to wear robes and surplices, or other variations on the dress code, subject to the organisers’ preference or request.

Please avoid strong perfumes / aftershaves.

## MUSIC PREPARATION

All singers are expected to mark up their music during rehearsals, and to ensure that they know the “geography” of what is being performed (repeats etc.), and the order of the programme.

For concerts all choir members should use the Trinity Singers folders, supplied by the choir.

## CONCERT ENTRANCES AND EXITS

Wherever possible entrances and exits will be “choreographed” to ensure efficient and smooth movements onto and off the stage. Singers should ensure that they are in the planned order to achieve the positions on stage, forming up properly and moving in quickly.

At the conclusion of the first half the MD takes a bow and leaves and the choir should follow as quickly as possible

Before returning to the stage for a second half we will, if possible, form up again.

At the end of a concert, the MD will take a bow, indicate the soloists / orchestra for applause, then the choir. The choir will applaud guest soloists, and accompanists / orchestra only. The MD will then leave the platform

and, if it is judged appropriate, return and repeat the above, then leave (unless there is a planned encore). Immediately the MD leaves for the second time the choir moves off swiftly as for the end of the first half.

Any “presentations” will be made immediately after the individual has acknowledged the first applause.

## DURING A CONCERT

Please do not leave bottles, music etc. on the stage after the rehearsal / before the concert, or in the interval. It makes it look very untidy.

It is distracting for the audience to see “fidgeting” of any sort. This includes tapping feet (also applies in rehearsal!), turning pages noisily, or trying to find the next item.

Avoid exchanges of “significant” glances with other choristers or the MD whatever happens.

When soloists are performing the choir should be still – any movement is distracting to an audience and impolite to the soloist.

We should look as though we are involved and enjoying it, and provide “feedback” and eye contact to the conductor. BUT - when singing as a choir we should try to avoid exaggerated facial expressions, or body movement, which can distract audiences.

At the end of a piece do not close books or turn pages until we have “acknowledged” the start of applause. (This will generally only be a brief moment during performances and does not mean a bow.)

## CONCERT PREPARATION AND CLEARANCE

A great deal of work is necessary in preparing for, and clearing after, concerts and other events and members are asked to assist as and where necessary. This may include physical work setting up staging, chairs, tables, or perhaps preparing food and refreshments. It is recognised that not everyone can assist with all tasks but “many hands make light work” so your co-operation and assistance would be much appreciated.

## PUBLICITY AND TICKET SALES

Without an audience a concert would be a miserable experience! It is imperative that all members support the publicity and promotional efforts to sell as many tickets as possible. Flyers and posters are generally prepared and all members are expected to place posters in their community, and anywhere else they have access, and to distribute flyers to friends.

This is all supported by our Social Media efforts, and Press Releases.

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