



Information for new members

Welcome

Thank you for your interest in joining the Royal Free Music Society Choir. We are a friendly choir who are committed to performing music to a high standard. We hope you will enjoy singing with us. Here is some further useful information.

Joining the choir

We are a non-audition choir and you don't have to be able to read music – but you do have to be able to sing in tune. Our musical director is happy to give you some guidance if you are not sure. New members are welcome to come and try us out for a couple of weeks but after that, we hope you will decide to become a member.

Rehearsals

Rehearsals are held on a **Thursday from 7 to 8.30 p.m.** in the Peter Samuel Hall at the Royal Free Hospital (from Rowland Hill Street entrance, take the stairs ahead of you to the first floor. The entrance to the hall is ahead and to the right). Please try and arrive promptly. Occasionally, there is a short sight-reading session before rehearsal to which all are welcome at no extra charge.

Membership Fees

We try to keep our membership fees as low as possible (£47 per term or £135 annually). To date, our rehearsal venue has been free of charge, but we do have certain expenses: musical director, accompanist, concert venues, soloists' fees etc. Members are expected to pay the membership fees promptly. We offer concessionary rates for those on low incomes. Please email us on royalfreemusicsociety@gmail.com if you would like to know more.

Attendance

There is an attendance sheet to sign at each rehearsal. Attendance at 70% of rehearsals is expected for those wishing to sing in concerts; attendance at the dress rehearsal on the Thursday before the concert and on the day of the concert is mandatory. If you cannot attend a rehearsal or a concert, please let the membership officer know by email or mark it on the register.



Music

Depending on demand, vocal scores are made available for singers to purchase or hire for a small charge. For those buying their own copies, details of the required editions will be emailed in time for the first rehearsal of term.

Personal practice

Being prepared for rehearsals really helps. Please have a look at the music before and between rehearsals, listen to a recording, and sing along to the midi files (links are provided on the RFMS website). You can also purchase a practice CD or MP3 download from Choraline <https://www.choraline.com> which many find helpful.

Concerts

We usually perform three concerts a year, often either at St Mark's Church, Regent's Park or St John's Wood Church. For concerts, we use RFMS folders which can be purchased for £15 or borrowed for the performance (£15 deposit required). Although we don't have a concert at Christmas, we regularly do carol singing to raise money for the Royal Free Hospital Charity and one or two other charities.

Concert dress

Our standard attire is all black - shirts and trousers for men and dresses, skirts or trousers and tops for women.

The Hampstead Sinfonietta

The Hampstead Sinfonietta is an amateur orchestra that plays exclusively at our concerts, although its members play in other London orchestras. We are very privileged as a choir to have a regular orchestra for our concerts.

The choir

The choir is a registered charity (1151170), run by a committee who are elected annually from and by the Society members. The choir has a constitution and a code of conduct which can be found on our website.

The website

Our website contains lots of useful information and some tips about singing which you may find helpful, <http://www.royalfreemusicsociety.org.uk/>.



Your personal data

We will store your name and contact details electronically. We do not share this information with any other organisations.

Having fun

We don't have a break during rehearsals so we make up for this by organising numerous social events for the choir throughout the year. Each term we hold a 'New Members' social evening so we can get to know each other, and more regularly, some of us go to the pub for a drink and/or meal after rehearsals. We also love having parties, quizzes, picnics and foreign trips.

Any questions

Please get in touch with Jane Hassid (our membership officer) if you have any questions by emailing royalfreemusicsociety@gmail.com.