



Dartington Community Choir

Rules of Membership

Membership

1. Membership is open to all singers over the age of 18. To be successful, an applicant for membership should be able to sing in tune and rhythmically, be able to blend, have some experience of following a score and be willing to improve musically.
2. The Choir operates a policy of equal opportunities and non-discrimination in line with its Equality and Diversity Policy, a copy of which is available on the Choir's website.
3. Singers shall apply for membership to the Membership Secretary. Membership is by invitation, followed by a 'Meet the Conductor' session to confirm voice part, and at the absolute discretion of the Management Committee.
4. The Management Committee may determine maximum numbers for the Choir, and for the voice parts.
5. An applicant may be offered a place on the waiting list for membership.
6. A singer whose application is rejected must be notified of the decision in writing within fourteen days of the next Management Committee meeting.
7. An applicant may appeal, in writing, against rejection, but if the rejection is upheld the decision is final.
8. Membership is not transferable to another person.
9. The Trustees shall keep a register of members' names and addresses.
10. The Trustees may from time-to-time nominate a person for Honorary Lifetime Membership.

Duties of membership

11. Any member requested to participate in a voice assessment exercise will be required to take part, as it is in the best interests of the choir that voice parts are balanced and that voices blend as harmoniously as possible.
12. The Choir espouses values compatible with its status as a community choir, particularly friendship, tolerance and respect as set out in the Equality and Diversity Policy and members shall conduct themselves in accordance with this Policy and these values. Despite being an amateur choir, members shall behave professionally at all times.
13. Members shall pay subscriptions as required.
14. Members should attend rehearsals punctually and regularly.
15. Members are expected to participate in performances, except in special circumstances. In all cases, participation in performances extends to attendance at the final rehearsal before concert day and the dress rehearsal on concert day.

16. In the case of unavoidable periods of non-attendance, a member should apply to the Membership Secretary for leave of absence.
17. Members are expected to attend a minimum of 70% of Monday rehearsals for the two principal concerts of the season (Autumn and Spring). Saturday rehearsals (normally two per term) can make up for missed Monday rehearsals. Attendance at both Monday and Saturday rehearsals will be recorded on the Choir's attendance registers. In the event of a member failing to meet the attendance requirement, their participation in a performance shall be at the discretion of the Management Committee on the advice of the Music Director.
18. During rehearsals, members shall refrain from the use of mobile phones or any other electronic hand-held device, other than in exceptional circumstances (e.g. a family emergency or work crisis).
19. Membership shall imply acceptance of the current Rules of Membership.

Library Scores – Etiquette

20. Members must take reasonable care of hired music, observe the following library etiquette requirements and will be financially liable in the event of loss.
21. Members should spend a little time before the next rehearsal rubbing out existing marks.
22. Members should always use a soft pencil (2B) and bring a rubber to rehearsals.
23. Members should not fold page corners.
24. Any member who knows they will not be singing in the concert must be sure to return their score before the concert.
25. If for any reason a member cannot sing but had intended to, scores must be returned to the librarian as soon as possible but no later than the Friday following the concert.
26. For any score that is overdue, the relevant member will be responsible for a £10 fine plus the cost of a new book.

Termination of Membership

27. Membership shall be deemed to terminate if a member fails to register renewal of membership and make payment by the renewal deadline.
29. A member may be removed from membership by a special resolution of the Management Committee of Trustees that it is in the best interests of the Choir. The member must be notified within 21 days of this decision in writing. The member may appeal against this decision in writing. This appeal will be considered at the next Management Committee meeting. The member will be notified of the decision within 21 days. This decision is final.
30. Membership may be terminated by resignation in writing, subject to any outstanding debts being discharged.