

MANCHESTER COMMUNITY CHOIR (MCC): 2019-20 INFORMATION FOR NEW MEMBERS

This document mainly describes our normal arrangements before Coronavirus forced us to go “virtual” in March 2020.

Welcome to Manchester Community Choir. We hope you will enjoy being a member. If you have any questions or concerns, ask any of the trustees who form our management committee; you can [see their photos here](#).

Rose Hodgson is our talented new musical director, who started in September 2019.

Values. We run our own affairs cooperatively, with an elected committee.

- a We welcome all-comers, irrespective of musical knowledge or experience and we don't audition.
- b We value community, cultural diversity, peace and freedom from all kinds of discrimination and oppression.
- c We are not a religious or political choir; we are open to members of all religions and political persuasions.
- d We don't discriminate against any individual on grounds of race, gender, religion, age, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability,
- e Members of the choir respect each other, our MD and the staff and audiences of rehearsal and performance venues.

Helping with the Choir: The Choir is a voluntary organisation and depends on the goodwill and help of its members. Here are some ways you can help with the Choir:

- Join the committee of trustees – talk to any committee member about what this entails.
- Help with refreshments at Sunday rehearsals; talk to the refreshments team if you can assist.
- Help move chairs and furniture before and after our rehearsals.

Website and social media.

Our website is www.manchestercommunitychoir.org.uk .

See also our Facebook page [here](#), Twitter account [here](#), and videos on our You Tube account [here](#).

Performances. We are a performance choir; we appear regularly at events in Manchester and further afield, including the annual Street

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Choirs Festival (which we hosted in July 2019), and we like to have at least 60 members singing at each performance. At our performances, photos are usually taken and video recordings are made, and these may be published.

Our **dress code** for performances is plain black tops and bottoms plus plain **bright green** accessories. See the illustration below.

Choir Attire



Plain black tops with plain bright green accessories and black bottoms

Learning Songs. We learn songs by ear, so you do not need to be able to read music. Lyrics and mp3 recordings of the song parts are on the members' area of our website, to help you practise between rehearsals; we don't provide sheet music.

We expect members to memorise words for performances and we expect those performing to **be well rehearsed**, so that we can keep up our high standard. We ask you to practise at home, following Rose's sound tracks and her tips and advice. The two rehearsals immediately before a performance are very important, so please do try and attend those as well.

Rehearsals. We rehearse three times a month, on one Sunday and two Mondays, at Didsbury Baptist Church, Beaver Road, Didsbury, M20 6SX; entrance on School Lane.

Dates of rehearsals: There is a regularly updated Google calendar in the Members' Section of our website, showing details of rehearsals, performances, workshops and social events. Please check this Calendar

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often, as sometimes changes or additions occur, especially in preparation for performances. No password is needed for the Calendar.

Public transport to Didsbury Baptist Church: the Church is almost opposite the Didsbury Village Metrolink stop, and buses X57, 42, 142, 84, 171, 371 and 23 stop nearby.

Parking at Didsbury Baptist Church: there is parking on the adjacent roads, off School Lane and on other roads the other side of Wilmslow Road. There is a small parking area to the left side of the Church on Beaver Road which is for people with disabilities or delivering large items of equipment.

During rehearsals we sit in voice part sections. Don't be scared of moving around until you find a section which suits your voice. Women are generally high (soprano), middle (alto) or low (tenor). Men generally sing bass (lower) or tenor (higher). Please speak to Rose if you are unsure which voice part is best for you.

Please make sure your mobile phone is off or on silent during rehearsals and keep chat to the absolute minimum. Photography is not usually allowed at rehearsals, except with the express permission of the Committee and the agreement of the members at that rehearsal.

There is a comments folder at rehearsals and a suggestions facility on the website; we welcome ideas and suggestions.

Refreshments: At Sunday rehearsals we have a 30-minute break when hot drinks and biscuits are available. At Monday and other rehearsals there are no hot drinks available.

Announcements: Announcements about choir events are made at rehearsals, so please bring your diary. Announcements are also published on the website and usually emailed to members.

At rehearsals, announcements are limited to MCC business, but leaflets and posters about non-MCC events can be displayed and we have a separate opt-in email list for sending out information about non-MCC events.

Social events: We normally hold a few socials a year, usually after Sunday rehearsals – please check the calendar on the Choir website

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and look out for email messages. They are good opportunities to get to know other members of the Choir.

Our CDs: The Choir has recorded three CDs; the first is completely sold out! The other two are usually on sale at rehearsals and performances; they really do make fabulous presents!

Privacy: We have thought carefully about [our Privacy Policy](#) to make sure we only use information about members for Choir purposes.

Choir Assistance Fund: We may be able to offer some financial help towards travel and associated accommodation costs to members who would otherwise be unable to attend rehearsals, performances, workshops and festivals with the Choir. More details [here](#).

Feedback

We really want your feedback on how our choir is run and our performances. We value that feedback whether it is positive or negative. We have a suggestions box at rehearsals and a place on our website for you to make your views known.

Complaints

If things go wrong and you feel dissatisfied with something that happens at our choir, please do talk to one of our trustees; you can [see their photos here](#). If that doesn't solve the problem, you can give a written complaint to any trustee, or send an email to

the-score@manchestercommunitychoir.org.uk

Your complaint will be properly investigated by our Membership Secretary and you will be told the result within 14 days. No-one will know of your complaint other than any other parties involved in the complaint and the members of the committee, who will treat it in strict confidence. Any serious complaints involving legal issues may have to be referred to the external authorities.

Last but certainly not least.....

We hope you enjoy being a member of the Choir and that you won't hesitate to approach any of the Committee to discuss any problems or issues – Committee members are the ones in the bright green t shirts at rehearsals.

Manchester Community Choir Committee latest revision 22.09.20