



## **Information for New Members**

### **Welcome**

Thank you for your interest in joining the Royal Free Music Society. We are a friendly choir who are nonetheless committed to performing music to a high standard. We hope you will enjoy singing with us. You will find below some useful information about the choir.

### **Joining the choir**

We don't audition 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 or don't know which voice part you are.

### **Rehearsals**

Rehearsals are held on a Thursday from 7 to 8.30 p.m. in the Peter Samuel Hall at the Royal Free (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. There are also an occasional short optional sight-reading classes before rehearsal if you feel this would be useful.

### **Attendance**

Please try and make all the rehearsals. There is an attendance sheet to sign at each rehearsal; apologies for absence at future rehearsals can be recorded there. Attendance at 80% of rehearsals is expected for those wishing to sing in the concerts; attendance at the dress rehearsal 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.

### **Concerts**

We perform three concerts annually and our regular concerts are generally performed in St Mark's Church, Regent's Park. Occasionally, we are invited to perform in other concerts and you will be offered the chance to participate.

### **Concert dress**

Men are asked to wear black trousers and a black shirt, and women in smart, all black, dress or trousers/skirt and top.

### **Music**

Where possible, vocal scores will be available for singers to hire for a small charge, for singers wishing to borrow rather than buy a score. Details of the editions required will be emailed at the start of every term, in time for our first rehearsal for those buying their own copies. We sing at concerts using RFMS folders which can be purchased for £15 or borrowed for the performance (£15 deposit required).

### **Personal practice**

Being prepared for rehearsals really helps. Please have a look at the music before and between rehearsals, and listen to a recording, there are *midi* files on the RFMS website which you can sing along to. There are also *midi* files on the net. Alternatively you can purchase a practice CD from [Choroline](#) which many find helpful (particularly those on Macs).

### **The website**

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

### **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 Society to have a regular orchestra for our concerts. You can see some of their performances in our concerts on YouTube as well as the choir performing the first few movements from the Mozart Requiem.

### **Fees**

As a Society we try to keep our fees as low as possible. We do not have to pay for our rehearsal venue but we do have certain expenses: musical director, accompanist, concert venue, soloists' fees, instrument hire, etc. New members are welcome to come and try us out for a couple of weeks but after that we would like you to commit to becoming a member which includes paying the membership fees promptly (currently £47 per term or £135 annually).

### **The Society**

The Society is a Charity with a constitution and code of conduct. Please ask if you would like to receive a copy of this.

### **The Committee**

The Society is run by a committee. If you enjoy the choir, why not get involved? Elections are held annually and we are always looking for members to take on some of the posts.

### **Your personal data**

We will store your name and contact details electronically (principally in an email contact list and in spreadsheets on personal computers). We do not share this information with any other organisations.

### **Having fun**

After rehearsals some of us make our way to a nearby pub for a drink and/or a bite to eat. Please come and join us; it is so much nicer if we get to know the choir members. There are also one or two organised social events during the year.

### **Membership Officer**

Jane Hassid: [royalfreemusicsociety@gmail.com](mailto:royalfreemusicsociety@gmail.com)

Royal Free Music Society

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