



Welcome Information for new members

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

Joining the choir

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

Rehearsals

Rehearsals are held on a **Thursday evening from 7 to 8.30 pm** in St Saviour's Church, Eton Road, London, NW3 4SU – entrance opposite the synagogue.

Membership Fees

We try to keep our fees as low as possible – and you should find we are quite competitive for a London choir. The termly fee (for ten or more rehearsals) is £62. (We have three terms in a year.) Or alternatively (if you pay in September) you can pay for the whole year in one go – the Annual fee is £180. A concessionary rate is available for those on low incomes and full-time students.

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

Details of the required edition of vocal scores will be emailed in time for the first rehearsal of term. Sometimes, vocal scores are made available through the choir for purchase or hire for a small charge.



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 practice aids (see page in RFMS Members area of the website - <https://royalfreemusicsociety.org.uk/midi-files>).

Concerts

We usually perform three concerts a year, often 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 usually have a concert at Christmas, we regularly sing carols to raise money for the Royal Free Hospital Charity and one or two other charities.

Concert dress

Our standard concert attire is all black – black dresses or shirts/blouses and trousers or skirts.

The Hampstead Sinfonietta

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

The running of the choir

The choir is a registered charity (1151170) run by a committee, which is 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 - www.royalfreemusicsociety.org.uk - contains lots of useful information and some tips about singing, which you may find helpful.



Your personal data

We will store your name and contact details electronically. We do not share this information with any other organisations. Anyone on whom the RFMS holds data may request all their data to be provided within a month – please refer to our Data policy which you can find on our website.

Having fun

We don't have a break during rehearsals, so – to get to know each other better - we try to organise regular social events for the choir including parties, picnics, quizzes and foreign trips.

Any questions

Please email us with any questions to royalfreemusicsociety@gmail.com.

July 2021