

Barts Chamber Choir Singing Tests

In addition to the main choir, Barts also runs a Chamber Choir - about 55 people - directed by Ivor and performing regularly in various London venues, particularly St Martin-in-the-Fields, Trafalgar Square.

To join the Chamber Choir you have to sing in the main Choir and pass a brief singing test. The test is very straightforward and does not involve more complex aspects such as sight-reading. The purpose is to test tone, basic intonation and rhythm, confirm your assessment of which voice part you sing, and ensure we have a good blend of voices. The tests will be taken by Ivor and Chris Lee and will last for five minutes; a significant amount of preparation is not expected or required. During the singing test you will be asked to:

- Sing, accompanied or unaccompanied, a piece of music of your own choosing. This should last for no more than a minute or two and can be anything at all; for example, something you have previously sung with Barts, another classical piece or a pop song. This is not a formal performance; it is an opportunity for Ivor to get a feel for your voice.
- Ivor will ask you to do a few exercises, for example, repeating a phrase played by Chris or singing scales or arpeggios.

The dates and times of the tests will depend on the level of interest and will be either after main choir rehearsals on Monday evenings, or on a separate evening if there is lots of interest.

Singing with the Chamber Choir is enormous fun and very rewarding but, because there are only a limited number of rehearsals (five or six, usually) for each concert, it does require a high degree of personal commitment. Membership of the Chamber Choir means:

- Substantially learning your part in your own time; rehearsals are for working on the interpretation of the music, the sound of the choir and developing the overall performance.
- Attending ALL Chamber Choir rehearsals (except in exceptional circumstances). It is important to note that the Chamber Choir rehearsals run concurrently with the Main Choir rehearsals so for a number of weeks each term you will have two rehearsals each week.
- Selling tickets for the concert.

When considering joining the Chamber Choir please carefully consider the level of commitment involved. Please also remember that membership of the Chamber Choir is additional to, rather than a substitute for, membership of the main Choir and whilst there is a limited degree of flexibility in attending main Choir rehearsals when both choirs are rehearsing it is a requirement that you attend the majority of main Choir rehearsals each term and sing in the main Choir concerts.

Members of the Chamber Choir are expected to buy or hire their own copies of the score and there will be a small charge each term to cover the costs of hiring the rehearsal venue (in the region of £12-£20).