**Lower Windrush Choral Society**

**Guidelines for choir-members (2023)**

These guidelines are intended to encourage choir-members to improve the standard of their singing as individuals, as well as to improve the standard of the choir as a whole when performing. As a choral society, our aim is to produce as accomplished a performance as possible, consistent with the resources available to us, and whilst not losing sight of the fact that it is important to have fun whilst doing it. Choral singing is a team effort; the contribution and commitment of each and every member is important.

**Guidelines for attendance**

* There is no strict minimum attendance level, but frequent attendance at rehearsals is essential to ensure that members are ready for concerts. As a guide, you should aim to ensure that you attend *at least* 75% of rehearsals, but most members’ attendance much exceeds that level.
* The Music Director (MD) will review registers of attendance periodically and, in cases of frequent absence (particularly in the run-up to a concert), he may ask a member not to sing in the concert.
* Attendance is *required* for the two final rehearsals before a concert – the rehearsal on the day and the preceding rehearsal. The MD may waive this requirement at his discretion.
* Even if you know the work well, or are a good sight-singer, it is still important that you attend in order to note and learn the MD’s detailed instructions about how the work is to be sung (e.g. pauses to observe, when to breathe).
* The Society is always willing to consider an individual’s special circumstances, e.g. short-term work or family problems that may conflict with the normal attendance guidelines. Please feel free to raise concerns with one of the Co-Chairmen.
* Please let your Section Leader know in advance if you are unable to attend a rehearsal. This is not just for courtesy’s sake; it helps in planning seating, and may also assist the MD to plan that day’s singing.

**Guidelines for rehearsals**

* Watch the MD whenever possible and follow his instructions immediately. If necessary, adjust your seating to enable a better sightline or, if you are on the back row, feel free to stand up.
* Limit non-essential conversations with neighbours.
* If you are not sure of your notes or entries:
  + sing quietly or not at all until you have learnt them;
  + ask the MD for help, if necessary.
* Raising your hand indicates that you realise you have made a mistake. This will help the MD deal with the problem appropriately.
* Be prepared to discuss problem sections of music constructively and quietly with others in your part – for instance, if you notice a difference between what you and your neighbour is singing.
* Remember that you are part of an ensemble and adjust your voice to blend with your neighbours.
* Whilst the MD gives guidance to other sections of the choir, do not disturb others by talking, humming or singing.
* If circumstances within your section interfere with your ability to enjoy the music and perform to the best of your ability, share your concerns with your Section Leader.

**Guidelines for homework**

* You are expected to go over the pieces covered in rehearsal, and to prepare for the next session. If you have been absent, the Bulletin will advise on what you have missed. It will also usually tell you what is to be done the next week.
* The web site (<https://www.lowerwindrush.org/rehearsal-aids>) lists useful learning aids.
* The MD will wish the choir to begin each piece confidently. Learn the first few bars from memory to help achieve this.

**Please encourage each other to observe these guidelines.**