

STONEHAVEN AND DISTRICT CHORAL SOCIETY GUIDELINES FOR MEMBERS

1. Membership admission and termination rules

Membership of the Society shall comprise Ordinary, Honorary and Life members.

1.1 Ordinary membership

Ordinary membership shall be open to all persons over the age of 14 who have the necessary vocal qualifications, as decided by the Conductor and Committee of management. Allocation to vocal sections will be based on the advice of the Conductor. This shall be reviewed after an initial period of 4/6 weeks by mutual agreement between the applicant and The Conductor. More information about this can be found on our website.

1.2 Honorary membership

Honorary Membership is bestowed at the discretion of the Management Committee on those who, though not Ordinary Members of the Society, have served the choral society over many years. For example, this may include previous Musical Directors and Conductors. They are entitled to complimentary concert tickets as determined by the Management Committee.

1.3 Life membership

Life Membership may be bestowed by the Society at the discretion of the Management Committee on any members who have given outstanding service to the Society. For example, 'outstanding service' may include 20+ years of service and a period serving as a post-holder, or an extended period in another significant role on behalf of the Society. They are entitled to complimentary concert tickets as determined by the Management Committee.

Neither Honorary nor Life membership has voting rights at the AGM, or in the Main Committee. Both categories to be listed on concert programmes.

2. Subscription fees and other payments to be made by members

The subscription for Ordinary members for the ensuing year shall be recommended by the Management Committee to the Society at the AGM.

Fees currently stand at £90 per term or £180 per year.

The Management Committee may levy each member of the Society for an additional subscription to offset exceptional costs of music hire or purchase.

3. What is expected of members

3.1 Attendance

All ordinary members are expected to attend rehearsals regularly and be punctual. Members are expected to inform the Secretary if they are unable to attend a rehearsal. The Secretary shall maintain a register of attendance for each rehearsal and this register shall be final and conclusive in any question between the Management Committee and any member.

Members are expected to arrive promptly and to switch mobile phones to silent during rehearsals. Rehearsals are on Monday evenings from 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. in the Assembly Hall, Mackie Academy. When the school is unavailable, rehearsals are normally held in St Bridget's Hall in Stonehaven. Occasionally individual sections of the choir will arrange an informal note bashing session, usually at a member's house.

3.2 Music and Folders

The choir provides the music to be used. Members are expected to look after this valuable resource. Members are loaned a black presentation folder and a clip on light for concert purposes only and should not be used for normal rehearsals. Folders, lights and music must be returned when members leave the choir or cease to pay their subscriptions.

New members will be required to pay a nominal deposit for the use of music provided during a trial period and music handed back to the Librarian at the end of each rehearsal until they are accepted as a member and have paid their full subscription.

The level of professional fees to be paid to soloists, accompanist and/or orchestral players shall be determined by the Management Committee in consultation with the Conductor.

3.3 Concerts

The Society promotes at least two concerts a year – one in mid December and one in late May. The works performed vary widely including traditional choral repertoire and unaccompanied works, sometimes in eight parts.

Participation in the concerts is expected of members and only in exceptional circumstances at the discretion of the Conductor would this be waived.

Additional rehearsals may be held on a mid-week evening or Saturday in the week before a concert, and a final rehearsal on the day of the concert.

The recording or taking of photographs of our concerts is not allowed unless a prior arrangement has been made with the conductor.

3.4 Concert Dress

Please bear in mind that by requesting a measure of conformity in how we dress, we are trying to project a smart, professional image for the choir. For that reason, please make every effort to conform to these guidelines.

Ladies

Black tops with long or three-quarter length sleeves, and long (full-length) black skirts or dresses. The one alternative would be wide (palazzo-style) full-length black trousers. Black shoes. Ladies are occasionally provided with a matching accessory to add to their costume.

Gentlemen

Generally, men wear black shirts, open neck, no ties, formal black trousers, black socks & black shoes. Occasionally, men wear formal black trousers and jacket, a white shirt and black bow-tie. Sometimes, a bow-tie of a specific design or colour may be provided by the Chorus.

3.5 Other Events

The Chorus also accepts invitations to sing at other events and may sing at weddings.

4. Committees

4.1 Nominations for the posts of Office Bearers or Committee members must have a proposer, seconder and the consent of the nominee. Fourteen days prior to each AGM, the Management Committee shall provide members with a form inviting nominations for those positions. Each position on the committee is initially for a 2 year period. At the end of their 2 year set term, all Committee members are eligible for re-election if they wish and there is no fixed number of set terms. Nominations should be returned to the Secretary before the AGM.

4.2 The Management Committee may set up sub committees to deal with specific issues. This includes a standing Music sub-committee which is chaired by the Vice President and includes the Conductor, the Assistant Conductor and the Librarian plus committee members elected at the AGM.

5. Communication

Every member receives a leaflet each session containing a list of the committee members and the members of each section of the choir. Telephone contact numbers are listed, with their agreement, for every member. Members are advised that these are issued for use for choral business only.

New members are provided with copies of the constitution of the society, the Guidelines for members and the data protection and privacy policy.

Information is passed on to members in the following ways:

5.1 by verbal announcements at rehearsals,

5.2 by email or by phone call / paper copy where a member has no email address,

5.3 by newsletter from the President.

6. Updates

The Guidelines for members are updated when required.

The members information leaflet is updated annually.

LAST UPDATE: These guidelines were updated in February 2025