

London Oriana Choir Charter

This charter summarises what the Choir offers to members and what the Directors and Musical Director expect from members in return. Further detail can be found in the Welcome to the Oriana Choir leaflet given to new members on joining the choir and resent to existing members at each three yearly voice assessment.

What we aspire to	What we offer you	What we expect from you
<p><i>A vibrant, sociable choir which emphasises the fun and enjoyment of singing, whilst aiming for the highest professional standards.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The excitement and reward of singing in some of London’s major venues with professional orchestras and top soloists. • Professional musical direction aiming for professional standards; • Rehearsals focused on improving performance, not note-bashing; • Diverse concert programmes at a range of major London venues both during the week and at weekends, typically 6 or more concerts per year. • Opportunity to take singing lessons with professional coaches ‘in-house’ during rehearsals; • Three-yearly voice assessments with detailed feedback on your singing technique; • Regular workshops to improve choral techniques/foster fun group relations; • A repertoire ethos, with a variety of new and previously performed pieces being rehearsed at any one time – often for more than one concert ahead. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enthusiasm and commitment; attendance at as many rehearsals and concerts as possible throughout the year. • Missing no more than two rehearsals for any concert which you are committed to and attending the (full) afternoon rehearsal that normally precedes each concert (including on weekdays). • Attendance at rehearsals, even for concerts you are not singing in, and that you have your own music. Sharing is strongly discouraged. • A pencil for marking up your score (or you have to buy one from the choir!) • Professional and attentive behaviour during rehearsals and concerts, adhering to the Choir dress code for concerts; • If you miss a rehearsal, contacting your Part Representative promptly to find out any markings or directions missed; • Prompt and pro-active booking of voice assessments when advised of dates; • Taking responsibility for addressing your own learning & technical needs, be it working on difficult passages, or improvements as advised in your voice assessment.
<p><i>A choir which values efficient communication</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E-mailed ‘weekly words’ setting out music required for the next rehearsal and future events; • Part Representatives to act as a main and easily accessible point of contact between individual members and the Choir’s management; • An inclusive approach to managing the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prompt and proactive return of commitment forms for rehearsals and concerts, honestly completed; • Prompt and proactive return of music orders to your Part Rep; • Contacting your Part Rep ASAP if you have to change your commitment and/or miss part or all of a rehearsal, and if you are unable to contact him/her in advance apologising to the Musical Director in person;

	<p>Choir with all members invited to attend steering group meetings;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prompt communication from your Part Rep, the Musical Director or the Directors as appropriate if we have any concerns about your adherence to this charter. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relaying results of conversations with MD re attendance and concert day to Part Rep. • Contacting your Part Rep well in advance if you are returning from an extended break from the choir; • Contacting your Part Rep promptly if you are unclear about anything, or have any concerns.
<p><i>A choir that seeks to minimise the costs to its members</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administration of the choir entirely run by volunteers. • The facility to order and purchase music direct from the choir; • Flexibility, should you wish to hire or borrow music yourself or, in some cases, purchase music returned by leaving members; [this in recognition of the costs of purchasing new music (likely to be around £150 per year)]. • Subscriptions (with 3 instalment option) not used to subsidise concert costs, and with no ticket-selling commitment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding that the choir can only function successfully with the support and help of every member. • Prompt and proactive payment of subscriptions and music monies due; • Volunteer to participate in the running of the choir if you possibly can, particularly if you have relevant specialist skills; • On leaving the choir, donate any core repertoire music you don't want to keep for onward sale to members. • Understanding that concerts have to pay for themselves over the season and that everyone has a responsibility to help publicise and sell tickets for concerts promoted by the choir;
<p><i>A friendly, welcoming choir</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An enthusiastic, lively, sociable, group of people, with all members taking an active role in welcoming new joiners; • Weekend tours, day workshops, and well-attended sessions in the pub after each rehearsal to help build choir cohesion and lasting friendships... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Join in the fun!