

Sutton Valence Choral

New Joiners - Frequently Asked Questions

Welcome to Sutton Valence Choral. We do our best to be as welcoming and friendly as possible, but we know that joining a choir can seem daunting. If you are thinking about joining us and have some questions, we hope you will find the answers to them below, but, if not, just send us a message using this link [[link](#)].

Once you are enrolled as a member, you will find lots more information, including our calendar of rehearsals, concerts and social events, in the Members Area of our website: www.suttonvalencechoral.com

Why should I join you?

Because we want to share with you the pleasure and sheer joy of making music together, by giving you the opportunity to learn and perform choral music to a high standard. We can promise you a challenging and rewarding musical experience as well as fun, laughter and friendship along the way.

Do I have to pass an audition to join?

No. Everyone is welcome.

I haven't sung for years, what if my voice is very rusty?

Honestly, most people who think they can't sing any more just need the right environment to practice and find their voice again.

Do I need to be able to read music?

No, some of our members can read music easily, others started out with only a general idea of musical notation and are on a learning curve, but our Director helps us to learn and we help each other. On our website, we also provide links to online music learning tools as well as to rehearsal tracks for the pieces we are rehearsing.

When do you rehearse?

We rehearse on Monday evenings from 7.30pm – 9.30pm (in term time) in the Groves Hall at Sutton Valence School, ME17 3HL. Free car parking is available in the main school car park. During our rehearsal we have a short coffee break complete with biscuits, and lots of chat. After the rehearsal members sometimes gather for a glass of beer in the Queen's Head, Sutton Valence.

Can I come along and see if I like the choir?

Yes, of course. Please do just come along to two free rehearsals to get a taste of what we do and see if the choir is for you.

What about any support when I won't know anyone in the choir to start with?

We realise it is daunting when you don't know anyone, so we assign a 'buddy' to each new member. Your buddy will introduce you to other members of the choir and support you in the first few weeks of joining.

If I decide to join, how much does it cost?

The annual membership subscription is currently £120 a year. If you prefer, you can pay termly in which case the amount is £50, £50, and £20 per term. Alternatively, you can pay by monthly standing order.

Do I have to bring my own copy of the music we are singing?

No. Scores are available to hire for a small charge. Feel free to make light pencil markings on hired scores.

What should I bring with me?

Nothing, just yourself - although we would recommend bringing a bottle of water.

What sort of music do you sing?

We perform a wide range of choral music, ranging from Bach, Haydn and Mozart, to Dvorak, Britten and Bernstein. We also include the works of living composers like Karl Jenkins and Cecilia McDowall. Our Christmas and summer concerts are usually lighter affairs when we branch out into other musical genres such as opera, jazz, folk, and pop.

Do you perform in public?

Yes. Each year we aim to stage two major choral concerts with a professional orchestra and soloists, usually in November and March. In addition, we usually put on smaller concerts at Christmas and in July. From time to time, we also undertake workshops and carol singing and we sing at charitable events.

Will I make friends?

Yes, you will. We are a very sociable band of singers and, we run several social events during the year (quiz, dinner, cinema evening, BBQ etc) - in addition to occasionally going to the pub together!

What do you do for the Community?

We are a registered charity, and our vision is to bring live classical music to as wide and diverse an audience as possible, especially those who would not normally attend such events. We are currently raising money for the Kent and Medway Young Musicians Trust, a charity helping young musicians with the costs of tuition, instruments, music and performance opportunities.

Do give us a try – we would love you to join us.