

Questions about joining Bristol Bach Choir

Here are some of the most common queries we receive about singing with us. We hope your questions are answered here! If your query is not answered here, please get in touch with the membership secretary: membership@bristolbach.org.uk

How do I audition? Our current system is to read your application, invite you to join us for a rehearsal to see if we all get on, before arranging an audition in the following weeks. If we are close to a concert we may ask you to wait until that concert is over before you come.

One of the Membership Secretaries will then be in touch with you to see if you want to audition, which will normally take place during the break in rehearsal. Your audition is then arranged for a mutually convenient Thursday.

However we plan by 2021 to move to a system of one open rehearsal once a term, after which interested singers will be able to arrange an audition as detailed above.

When and where do you rehearse?

Rehearsals are held on Thursdays from 7.30 to 9.30 pm, at Trinity-Henleaze United Reformed Church, Waterford Road, Henleaze, Bristol BS9 4BT. Generally speaking, we rehearse during term-time, but this may include half-terms depending on our concert schedule.

View map at:

<https://www.google.com/maps/place/Trinity+Henleaze+URC+Church,+Waterloo+Rd,+Bristol,+BS9+4BT/@51.4865582,-2.6102023>

What is your repertoire?

The BBC performs a wide repertoire from the 16th Century to the present day, with an emphasis, beyond Bach, on 21st century music. The variety of repertoire is linked by its quality and challenge.

How much time do I have to commit?

We expect singers to commit in principle to all concerts in the season (usually 4 or 5), and to attend every Thursday rehearsal. In addition there is a concert rehearsal on the Monday before each concert and a Saturday afternoon rehearsal on the day of the concert. We appreciate that illness or work commitments mean singers may miss the odd rehearsal, but ask singers who have missed more than 2 rehearsals for a concert to speak to the Musical Director, who may ask you to re-audition the music.

How much will it cost?

Members pay an annual subscription in September as a contribution to rehearsal and professional costs. At the moment this is £186 per annum. Music is provided and charged, although some can be hired at minimal cost. Any problems with this can be discussed with the Treasurer in confidence.

If you join partway through a season the subscription is charged at a pro rata rate. Financial support from the Alan Farnill Fund is available for new singers who are students or at the start of their working career. For more information contact the membership secretary (see above).