

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 you don't find what you're looking for, please get in touch with the membership secretary: membership@bristolbach.org.uk

Can I try you out?

Yes of course. If you're unsure about whether we're right for you, this is the perfect way to find out. We hold open rehearsals at various times in the year and anyone is welcome. Please contact the membership secretary for details.

How do I audition?

We encourage prospective singers to attend one or two open rehearsals to get to know the choir. We will then ask if you want to audition to become a member. If you wish to audition you should download and complete an application form [Join Us – Bristol Bach Choir](#) and send it to the membership secretary. We'll then arrange an audition in the following weeks at a mutually convenient date.

When and where do you rehearse?

Rehearsals are currently held on Thursdays from 7.30 to 9.30 pm, in the Junior School Hall at Bristol Grammar School BS8 1SR. We usually rehearse during term-time, but this may include half-terms depending on our concert schedule.

What is your repertoire?

The BBC performs a wide repertoire from the 16th Century to the present day, with an emphasis on the music of J S Bach and 20th/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), 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 singers who have missed more than 2 rehearsals for a concert may be asked to reaudition for the music of that concert.

How much will it cost?

Members pay an annual subscription in September as a contribution to rehearsal and professional costs. For 2024-2025 this is £225 per annum. Music is provided at charge, although some can be hired at minimal cost. Any matters regarding this can be discussed in confidence with the Treasurer.

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 are at the start of their working career. If you are in receipt of means tested income support, we offer a 50% reduction in membership subscriptions. For more information contact the membership secretary (see above).