



Barnsley Youth Choir

For the voices of the young people of Barnsley

barnsleyyouthchoir.org.uk

Registered Charity no. 1159861

Dear Member/Parent/Carer

I am sure you have heard of the amazing success our Senior Choir achieved in the 3rd European Choir Games in Riga this summer. BYC entered both the Pop and Gospel categories and won both categories. They were then asked to move up and perform in the Grand Prix competitions for both pop and gospel and again won both competitions. BYC is now the highest ranked choir in Great Britain which I am sure you will agree is an amazing achievement. The experience is one our young people will remember for the rest of their lives and will open up many opportunities for the whole of BYC.

New Members and Members Moving Choirs

We are very excited to welcome around 100 new members this term. We were really impressed by the standard of auditions and new members are already settling in well.

New members and existing members moving choirs should now have received a letter which gives information regarding the concert uniform they will need to purchase ahead of the December concerts. If you have not yet received a letter please contact Lisa Critchley at bycuniforms@gmail.com. We do try our best to keep the cost of our concert uniform affordable for parents. If anyone is struggling to meet these costs we do offer a bursary scheme. Please contact our chairperson, Yvonne Worsley on 07717502248 if you would like to discuss using the bursary scheme. All requests will be dealt with discreetly. It is very important to us that no child feels unable to attend BYC due to finances.

Code of Conduct

We have attached a copy of our code of conduct which we ask all members and parents to read, sign and return by 9th November. It is very important that members are aware of what we expect from them whilst attending rehearsals and during concerts. It is also important we ensure they know what to do should any issues arise whilst they are attending BYC. If you have any questions regarding this please contact our safeguarding officer Deb Mahmood at bycsafeguarding@gmail.com

Calendar

Please find attached a calendar which lists details of rehearsals and events that are due to take place this year. The calendar will be uploaded to our website at <http://www.barnsleyyouthchoir.org.uk/calendar/> and is updated on a regular basis so we do ask that you review this frequently in order that you are aware of important changes. It is vital that members perform at events listed and we would ask that we are notified well in advance should any member be unable to take part in any event.

Remembrance Service – 9th November 2017

Our Senior and Intermediate choirs have been asked to perform ahead of the Remembrance Service at Horizon Community College on 9th November 2017. The choirs will perform at around 6.30 pm in the heart space. Members will need to wear their rehearsal t-shirt, smart black trousers, black shoes (not trainers) and black socks. We would ask that members of the Senior and Intermediate Choir arrive for 5.30pm on this evening to allow us time to prepare the choirs for the event. We are always very proud to perform at the Remembrance Service and will ensure that all members have a poppy to wear for the event.

Subscriptions

The trustees of the choir have met and agreed subscription charges for each of the choirs. Careful consideration has been given to these charges that still remain very low. We want all young people to be involved and if parents/carers are struggling with any of these costs bursaries are available for lower income families. Please get in touch with Yvonne Worsley if you would like to know more about this scheme either at rehearsals or by emailing bycyvonne@gmail.com. All requests will be dealt with discreetly. There are 3 different ways to pay subscriptions – weekly, termly and annually. Many parents/carers ask to pay up front so that children are not carrying money each week.

2017 – 2018 Season - based on 50 rehearsals per year. (this includes all extra rehearsals – some of which have not yet been calendared)

Children's Choir

£2 Weekly - Equivalent of £100 per year

£30 termly - Equivalent of £90 per year

£75 annual - Equivalent of £75 per year

Intermediate Choir

£2.50 Weekly - Equivalent to £125 per year

£35 termly - Equivalent to £105 per year

£90 annual - Equivalent to £90 per year

Senior Choir

£3.00 Weekly - Equivalent to £150 per year

£45 Termly - Equivalent to £135 per year

£110 Annual - Equivalent to £110 per year

Similar youth choirs charge much higher rates – many charge £350 - £500 per year. We want to keep costs down to a minimum without compromising the quality of the experience for our young people and adults continue to give their time and expertise for free to make this possible. All members will be offered a new rehearsal t-shirt at some point in the first term. We know that young people have a nasty habit of growing! This will be free of charge.

Proud of Barnsley – 17th November 2017

Our Senior Choir members are honoured to have been asked to perform at the Proud of Barnsley awards at the Holiday Inn, Dodworth on Friday 17th November 2017. Members will need to arrive at the Holiday Inn by 5.30pm in full concert uniform and be collected from the event at 7.30pm. Please ensure they bring a drink and snack along with them. This will be a number of members first performance with BYC and I am sure a very exciting experience.

Halloween Party and Open Mic Night – 21st October 2017

Tickets are on sale at £4 each for our Children and Intermediate choir Halloween Party and Senior Choir Open Mic Night which are to be held on 21st October. Please see Christine Hayhoe asap if you have not yet purchased a ticket and would like to attend the event.

Senior choir members who would like to perform at the Open Mic Night must let Sondelle Whittaker know by 15th October what they would like to sing so a slot and backing tracks can be arranged.

I know this will be another fantastic year for BYC. We look forward to seeing you all at events throughout the year and thank you for your support.

Very best wishes

Yvonne Worsley
BYC Chairperson and Trustee
bycyvonne@gmail.com

