



Pontnewydd Male Choir

CHOIR NEWSLETTER

Year 26 JANUARY 2022



Let's be positive and anticipate that, if we act sensibly, we can learn to live with any variants of the virus. Different Viruses have been around a long time.

Again my apologies for the delayed publication of this shorter newsletter. Initially it was delayed at the request of our chairman. Then updates to computer software caused difficulties and then the current spell of colder weather did not encourage me to spend a couple of hours in my conservatory – old age and blood-thinning tablets bring disadvantages. But here we go:

From our Chairman:

Happy New Year to you all.

After the difficulties of last year we start 2022 with new hope - a new Musical Director in Sarah Jones, whom we warmly welcome and hope that she has a long and happy association with the choir, and a new practice venue at Cwmbrian Workingmens Club. We look forward to welcoming new and returning choristers after a very challenging two years.

Sarah has already revised our rehearsal schedule for the year which reflects not only the preferences of the choir but also the repertoire for St David's Hall massed choir event in 2023. I'm sure there will be some additional pieces too as the year progresses.

However we still have to follow Covid regulations and that includes the Risk Assessments that both the Workingmens Club and the choir has had to formulate to ensure that we do everything to have all reasonable measures in place to prevent the spread of virus. So can I re-iterate the main requirements:

- Choir practice is considered “an organised activity” therefore we are currently limited to a maximum of 30 choristers indoors.
- We still need to make some preparations in the room before practice, so can I please ask that you don't turn up before 7.30pm.
- We will maintain our existing protocol of temperature checks, hand sanitising and taking a register of all attending practice.
- We are encouraging you all to take a Lateral Flow Test if possible before attending practice.
- If you have any symptoms of Covid please do not attend practice.
- Face coverings must be worn on entry into the club and can only be removed when we sit down.
- The wearing of face coverings during practice however is optional at the individual's discretion.
- When seated we must maintain a 2 metre social distance between choristers.

The club have agreed that we can use the side entrance to gain access to the practice room, which makes it easier for us rather than walking through the club's other rooms and bars. From the rear car park of the club walk to the right-hand side of the building and you will see the lit path that brings you to the double doors of the side entrance.

Here's to the resumption of normal service as soon as possible!

Additionally Sarah has written:

I am delighted to be part of PMC, especially being born and bred a 'Pontnewydd girl'.

Our journey together will initially focus on returning the choir to its pre-Covid high standards, particularly focussing on the legacy of the notoriously warm tone and professionalism achieved with previous MDs. Resuming PMC's frequent public performances will be part of our journey, as and when Covid restrictions permit, obviously. To that end, the rep list I've set for January will gradually be laced with lighter pieces and suitable wedding repertoire; I'll give a week's notice of any additional music required in rehearsals.

Looking forward to working together, gentlemen and Annette.

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Here's a fiendish clue from The Sunday Times Christmas Cryptic crossword of 26th December. Have a go!

Why vast domestics flare up in this time of year. (6,4,2,9)

Roy Fisher.....Editor