

WMC Vision

Winchester Music Club is an SATB choir of some 100 members who perform classical music concerts with a professional Musical Director in the Winchester area. Members are auditioned on a regular basis and the aim of the choir is to maintain and improve the standard of performances within the limits of personnel and finances available. Young professional soloists will be engaged where possible. The choir has strong links with Winchester College and aims to provide opportunities for pupils to perform either as soloists or as guests of the choir.

Detailed values:

1. Concerts and rehearsing

Concerts are normally held at the end of the Autumn and Spring school terms and are preceded by about 10 rehearsals. Additional concerts may also be arranged near Christmas, in the Summer, or for specific events (e.g. The Winchester Festival). A balance of events in terms of cost and type of music will be maintained by the Musical Director to attract audiences. Themed concerts may be arranged to commemorate specific events. Whilst particular emphasis will be given to offering solo parts to young professional singers, “celebrity” concerts may also be arranged featuring “household names”. Opportunities will be offered to charities to publicise and collect for their cause at concerts.

2. Social and fund raising events

Events will be arranged if there is popular desire for them and members willing to arrange them. Priority will be given to those linked to a singing or musical event. A regular event should be the “Come & Sing” held in May.

3. Relationship with Winchester College

From its foundation in 1925 by Sir George Dyson, the then Master of Music at Winchester College, there has been a close and mutually beneficial relationship between WMC and the College. This should continue and be nurtured and include inviting Glee Club and the Winchester Quiristers to join at least one concert per year.

4. Education and training

WMC aims to perform to the best of its ability and to improve both individually and collectively. To this end, choir members will be auditioned regularly and be given advice on how to improve. Vocal workshops will be organised and be open to non-members.

5. Finances

Subscriptions should be set at a competitive level, but such as to ensure that assets are maintained at a prudent level allowing for the risks involved in promoting concerts and to enable WMC to engage professional performers to the standard recommended by the Musical Director. Additional concerts to those planned to be supported by the subscription shall be profitable events on their own terms. Where possible additional revenue should be sought through selling advertising space in programmes, offering sponsorship and running a Friends organisation. Members may also be actively invited to donate over and above the standard subscription level.