



OMAGH MUSIC SOCIETY

Welcome Pack

2024/2025



www.omaghmusicsociety.com

Honorary President Margaret Mitchell

OMS Committee 2024

The committee is responsible for all the general administration involved in running the choir, from liaising with the musical director on repertoire, to looking after venue hire, insurance, licensing, performance booking, to name but a few. We meet regularly to strive for the best possible outcomes for our performances and to enable our members to enjoy what they come for – singing! You can read more about the election process and duties in our constitution document.

Chairperson Godfrey Young

Vice Chairperson Carol Simpson

Treasurer Sandra Irvine

Secretary Claire Sharkey

PR Officer Damien Conway

Heather Patterson

David Bowman

Gwen Garrett (who is also our librarian)

Chairperson's welcome **Godfrey Young MBE**

As we look forward to our 2024/25 season I wish to extend a very special welcome to new OMS members and a welcome back to our returning members. We're also pleased to welcome our new Musical Director Derick Weir and Beth Boyle our new accompanist. We look forward to working with them going forward.

A word of thanks to committee members Claire and Damien, for developing this pack for the benefit of choir members. We hope that you will find the information provided helpful.

Membership fees **where does the money go?**

Fees are carefully considered and will be communicated as close as possible to the beginning of each new choir year. Your fees cover all running costs of the choir: venue costs, insurances, performance fees, music licensing fees, musical director, accompanist, etc. All music will be included in membership fees going forward and will be made available on the Google Drive and in printed copy, if requested. Printed copies will remain the property of OMS.

What you should expect

Paper copies of music will be available if you have requested this through the choir WhatsApp group. You do not need to be able to read musical notation, as we will try to provide as much support as possible. Midi-files and videos will be distributed, where possible, to aid the learning of parts.

OMS gives you the opportunity to enjoy making music as part of an amateur choir, to broaden your musical knowledge and strive for the highest standards.

What we ask of you

- Make yourself familiar with the OMS Constitution
- Be punctual for rehearsals and aim to attend every week
- WhatsApp message or email the Choir Secretary if you are unable to attend a rehearsal
- Be prompt in paying subscriptions when required
- Ensure that you are equipped with all necessary music in an organised folder or tablet, a pencil and water to drink
- Use the resources provided on the choir's Google Drive/WhatsApp to help prepare for rehearsals
- Experienced members are encouraged to help less experienced members to navigate the music and support them through the rehearsal
- During a rehearsal comply with the Musical Director's instructions and do not talk during the rehearsal when the Musical Director is focusing on a particular section of the choir, or disrupt the rehearsal in any other way
- Be cooperative and contribute to the smooth running of rehearsals and concerts, e.g. by stacking chairs at the end of rehearsals or volunteering for tasks on concert days
- Be positive role models to others through a cheerful outlook and positive behaviours
- Be sensitive and considerate to others when making remarks in person or on social media platforms
- Avoid any actions that could be construed as harassment or bullying
- Make appropriate use of choir WhatsApp messaging groups for choir purposes only
- Observe OMS dress requirements and etiquette for performances. Ladies should wear a long black dress or top and long skirt or trousers. Gentlemen should wear a white shirt, black trousers and a black bowtie,

unless otherwise advised. Everyone should wear black shoes. We also ask that jewellery and embellishments are kept to a minimum, keeping in mind that these can be very reflective under stage lighting. As well as aiming to sound good, we like to look good on stage!

- Promote and encourage new membership when the opportunity arises. If you know someone who would like to join, please make this known to the Choir Secretary.
- Actively promote performances when the opportunity arises

If you are unsure of anything and require further guidance or support musically, ask the Musical Director at an appropriate time. If you require further guidance or support which is not of a musical nature, please speak to a member of the committee in the first instance.

Rehearsal and performance schedule

Rehearsals take place on Mondays from 7.30pm to 9.30pm in Holy Family School

September

2, 9, 16, 23 and 30

During the first few weeks of September, voice placement sessions will be available with the MD at 9.15pm, if required. Should this be required, rehearsal will finish early for the rest of the choir. Please let the choir secretary know if you are not sure which section you belong to.

October

7, 14 and 21 (28 mid-term break)

November

4, 11, 18 and 25

December

2 and 9

Thursday 12 OMS Christmas Concert, St Columba's Church of Ireland

January

6, 13, 20 and 27

March

3, 10, 24 and 31 (17 Public/Bank Holiday)

February

3, 10, 17, and 24

April

7, 14 and 28 (21 Easter Monday)

May

12 (5 Public/Bank Holiday)

Thursday 15 full "dress" rehearsal

Friday 16 OMS Spring Concert, Strule Arts Centre