

Welcome to SongTribe!



We've put this together to give you the bits of information that tend to get lost when you're joining something new. If there's anything that we've missed, please let Ros know and she'll add it in to the next version.

Musical Director – Alison Burns

Our director Alison Burns has been leading singing workshops since 1993 when she trained with Britain's leading voice-work pioneer, Frankie Armstrong. Alison is also the MD for the Feral choir, which is based in Castle Douglas, and teaches throughout the year at a range of workshops across the country. There is plenty more information on Ali's website:

www.aliburns.co.uk

Administrator – Ros Gasson

Ros does the organising behind the scenes, and maintains the choir's website. If you have any queries about the choir, she's your first port of call, and can be contacted via the website's 'contact us' page, or by emailing info@sing-in-scotland.com. Ros is also generally at rehearsals, singing in the alto section! There are also many choir members who are willing to roll up their sleeves and help out with organising events etc. Let Ros know if you're able to help with anything.

Our website

The SongTribe website is at www.sing-in-scotland.com

Once you've enrolled in the choir, you can register to gain access to the members' area of the website here: <https://sing-in-scotland.com/members-register/membership-registration/>. Over the first few weeks of term we keep an updated list of the songs we've learnt each week, so you can catch up if you've missed a rehearsal.

We have a diary page on the website, with all dates for rehearsals, concerts etc.

Communication

Ros sends out fairly regular emails to members with information about term dates, repertoire, arrangements for concerts, etc. Most of this information is also available on our website. Dates for upcoming events can always be found in the signature at the end of any SongTribe email.

We also have a SongTribe choir Facebook page used to publicise our events. It's really helpful if members who use Facebook can like the page and share relevant event posts. We've recently created a SongTribe Members Facebook page for the social side of things – if you use Facebook you can request to join it here:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/SongTribeMembers/>.

Rehearsals

We rehearse at old St Pauls in Jeffrey Street. Our rehearsals run from 7-9pm, without a break. We have the doors open from 6.30pm, and the kettle is always on. Come along early for a blether! We provide tea/coffee etc.

We have a couple of folk in the choir who are very sensitive to scents and perfume, so have recently decided to make all our rehearsals and performances scent-free.

The heating in the venue isn't particularly subtle – you might find it helpful to wear layers!

Attendance

Singing in a choir is a team effort. When you join a choir you're making a commitment not just to yourself and the musical director but also to the other choir members. The better the attendance, the better performances we give. Our expectation is that attendance from choir members is high, with full attendance for the 3 weeks before a performance.

Learning songs

Many of our songs have very straightforward words. We learn a lot of our songs by ear, with plenty of repetition of each part. We have recordings and song words available to members on Dropbox – please ask Ros for the link if you don't have it. These should not be shared outside the choir, as many of the arrangements are subject to copyright restrictions.

Listening to the recordings can help with familiarising yourself with both the words and music. Many members find it useful to bring along something to record the rehearsals, to ensure they have exactly what they need for learning at home.

SongTribe is open to anyone to join, no matter how little (or how much!) singing experience you have. We pride ourselves on singing together to the best of our collective ability.

Concerts

We generally perform at least one concert each term. Often these are organised by the choir.

We ask choir members to sign up in advance, to commit to performing at any concerts we're planning. At our concerts, we perform from memory. Although this might seem a big challenge to begin with, it's a skill that becomes easier with practice.

We have a small group of members who help out with various aspects of organising events - if you'd like to be involved, just let Ros know.

Publicity

We will occasionally use videos or photos of the choir, taken at events or rehearsals, for use when publicising our events. If you'd rather not be included in these, please let Ros know.

Social things

Occasionally choir members go to the pub together after our rehearsal. Any members are welcome to come along. Keep an ear open for announcements made at rehearsals.

We also organise occasional social events outside of choir rehearsals - a lot of the planning for these is done through our SongTribe Members' Facebook group and our choir email group. Links to both of these are in the members' area of the website

Our waiting list

Since the choir first started we've had a list of people who are waiting to join. We ask new members to join us in the first week or two of term, when we are starting to work on new repertoire. If for any reason you won't be returning to sing with us, please give Ros as much notice before the new term starts as possible, so that we can offer your place to the next person on the waiting list.

If you know anyone who is keen to join the choir, please ask them to add their details to the waiting list online at www.sing-in-scotland.com/join-the-waiting-list

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