



Llysfaen Singers
Survey to Members July 2022 and
Improvement Plan 2022/2023

Survey to Members 2022

Comments from Choir Survey, 2022	Comments in Response
<p>What do you like about being a member of Llysfaen Singers?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tom and Jay (4) • Singing plus the mix and challenge of the music (12) • Sociable company/ making new friends (8) • Good leadership and organisation (1) • Local choir supporting the community (1) 	<p>See commentary (below)</p>
<p>What aspect of Llysfaen Singers could be improved?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficult to insert music into folder (1) • Members to have more of a say in the music chosen(5) • Numbers need to increase (2) • Contacts list to be made available (1) • Use more online resources eg surveys and music (1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members to put photocopied sheets into booklet form; Voice Reps to help members before concert • See Priority 1 (below) • See Priority 3 • Under GDPR regulations, this is not possible. Member should ascertain required details themselves • Online surveys were trialled in lockdown and were unsuccessful; music on ipads etc cannot be annotated by members • Members need to familiarise themselves more with the musical direction of each piece- also

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fine tuning of some pieces takes place too far in advance of the concert and takes up too much rehearsal time (2) • Fewer classical pieces and only 1 Welsh song (1) • More 4 part songs with a low bass (1) • More looking up at Tom throughout songs and being mindful of what the audience sees at concerts plus singing from memory(3) 	<p>see Priority 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See Priority 1 • See Priority 1 • See Priority 3
<p>What's one thing about Llysfyaen Singers that you would change?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drab T shirts (2) • Backlog of lovely music that needs to be sung again (1) • Day of the concerts move to a Friday or Saturday (1) • More Welsh classics (in English)(1) • More social events (6) • Longer rehearsals – back to 2 hours (4) • More choral singing eg Jenkins, Rutter, Whittacre (2) • More upbeat music (1) • Sing one familiar song all the way through at the beginning and end of rehearsal just for the sake of it, especially when learning new songs/notebashing (2) • Much more variety and inspiring warm ups needed (1) • Practise in the Old School (1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members to be polled on what they would prefer to wear at regular concerts and other occasions • See Priority 1 • See Priority 3 • See Priority 1 • See Priority 4 • See Priority 2 • See Priority 1 • See Priority 1 • See Priority 2 • See Priority 2 • There is no piano in the Old School. We could hold the AGM in the Old School although there

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rehearsals are too rigorous: sing a piece through and pick up on areas of improvement, rather than a few bars at a time for each part (1) 	<p>are no kitchen facilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See Priority 2
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Update January 2023 Improvement Plan 2022/ 2023

Commentary

A survey was undertaken in July, 2022 to gauge the opinions of members on what they liked about Llysfaen Singers; what aspect of the choir they thought could be improved; what was one thing about the choir that they would change. Most members completed the survey. All viewpoints have been taken into consideration and this Improvement Plan has been formulated from them. All ideas suggested by members not addressed in the Improvement Plan can be found in 'Comments in Response' (above).

Comments made show that, without exception, all members enjoy choir. They very much appreciate music making and singing together and they like the social aspects of choir eg meeting new people and making new friends. There were very favourable comments about the MD, accompanist and the committee. The choir is extremely fortunate to have two excellent and popular musicians who very ably lead the choir in weekly term-time rehearsals and in our twice yearly concerts.

All members are happy with the way the choir is run and organised and the identified improvements are tweaks to current practice.

Areas of improvement fall into the categories of choice of music; rehearsal format; concerts; and social events.

Priority 1:

To include the committee and members in choosing an element of the repertoire

Success Criteria:

- The repertoire will give an improved balance of genres
- All members will be involved in choosing at least one of the pieces for each concert

	Tasks	Timescale	Persons involved	Progress R.A.Y.G.
1.	MD to decide on an initial repertoire (Where necessary, members to be given practice copies via email to print or to view via an IT device.) This may include a new song in Welsh <i>or</i> another language; songs with a classic Welsh melody, words in English; choral songs; upbeat songs; a 4-part song.	By October half term for Christmas Concert By March half term for Summer Concert	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MD • Librarian • Members 	

	MD to seek opinions of members on some choices of music for each concert.			
2.	Committee to ratify initial repertoire suggested by MD for Summer Concert. Voice reps to put forward up to 3 songs from each part from the back catalogue nominated by members. Final decision on what those songs are will be taken by MD	By end January 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MD • Librarian • Committee • Members 	
Action taken January 2023				
1. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MD decided on initial repertoire. New copies were purchased (A Christmas Special; Rutter The Very Best Time of Year; Riu Riu Chiu;).Suo Gan was sung in Welsh (from back catalogue) and Riu Riu Chiu partly in Spanish. All members were emailed with copies of songs; new members printed these out where possible and Tom had access to printing where members could not. Songs for Christmas concert were from a variety of genres and tempos • Members had the choice between Wonderful Christmas time or Little Drummer Boy • Members have been surveyed by Voice Reps to nominate choices from back catalogue for Summer concert 2. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be discussed in Jan. Committee meeting • Voice reps have polled members for nominations from back catalogue 				
Priority 2: <i>To include improvements to the rehearsal format</i>				
Success Criteria <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 4 songs will be sung in the majority of rehearsals • Members will become more familiar with all songs and follow written annotations more rigorously during rehearsals • Members will begin and end each rehearsal in a positive mood. 				
1.	MD to encourage members, at his discretion, to 'have a go' at sight-singing some of the way through – new pieces and/or from previous concerts	By end October 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MD 	
2.	Members to be encouraged to read all written annotations (eg dynamics) in their music and to practise, if necessary, using pre-recorded music at home.	By end November 2022 (Christmas concert) By end May 2023 (Summer concert)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MD 	

3.	Possible return to 2 hour rehearsals – 7:30-9:30pm. Membership numbers to be ascertained during the academic year 2022/2023 to determine whether this is financially viable.	July 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treasurer • Committee 	
4.	More varied warm ups to be introduced. One well-known song to be sung at the end of each rehearsal, especially when learning a new repertoire	December 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MD 	
Action taken January '23				
1.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive response to this with has encouraged the 'strong and wrong' ethos and has given MD improved evaluation of what to practise specifically. 			
2.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A minority of pieces were naturally quiet and a few eg Suo Gan, Still, Still, Still had obvious dynamics which were followed by all members. Dynamics were not specifically addressed by MD during rehearsals for most songs because of the locations of the Christmas concerts. 			
3.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hall fees have increased by over 90% and it is unlikely that we can return to 2 hour rehearsals in the near future. Membership has increased from 31 to 43 and if membership remains or increases, returning to 2 hr rehearsals can be reviewed next term. 			
4.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A very few new warm up exercises have been introduced. • Nearly all rehearsals have been at a faster pace and have ended in a very positive mood 			
Priority 3 <i>To improve concert techniques and to perform to a wider audience</i>				
Success Criteria <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members will be more experienced in singing a range of familiar songs • Members will be more mindful of their audience 				
1.	Members to be polled on what day of the week they would prefer to hold a concert (availability of MD and Accompanist to be established)	By October 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair 	
2.	Members to become more skilled in having the confidence to look down at their music and then look at the conductor to watch. MD to choose at least one song to be learned from memory per concert	By July 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MD 	

Action taken**January '23**

1.
 - Lighting of Christmas Tree and Rhiwbina Christmas festival were held on Friday and Saturday early evenings and were attended by 18/43 and 23/43 members respectively. Ty Mawr concerts were both held on Wednesdays and were attended by 35/43 members on both nights. Therefore, it is established that Wednesdays are better for concerts as that is 'Choir night'; many members, including MD and Acc. have commitments on other nights of the week.
2.
 - 12 Days of Christmas was sung from memory by many members

Priority 4*To increase the number of social events***Success Criteria**

- Members will have the opportunity to meet socially at least 3 times per year
- Many members will engage in a majority of events

1. Social Secretary to ascertain what members would like to do socially and when using information from survey 2020. Similarly, to organise a series of successful events either in term time or in the holiday, depending on when members are available	July 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Secretary • Committee 	
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Action taken**January '23**

1.
 - Yet to be organised (SS has been ill)
 - A few members are meeting in the Black Griffin after Wednesday's rehearsals