



**Llysfaen Singers**  
**Survey to Members July 2022 and**  
**Improvement Plan 2023/2024**

**Survey to Members 2023**

Comments from Choir Survey, 2022	Comments in Response
<p><b>What do you like about being a member of Llysfaen Singers?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fun/ singing together / pub afterwards (19)</li> <li>• Balance of discipline and freedom (2)</li> <li>• Welcoming / friendly / inclusive / meeting new people (16)</li> <li>• Great choice of songs (9)</li> <li>• Uplifting experience (3)</li> <li>• Superb professionals (6)</li> <li>• Local/community facility (6)</li> <li>• Like being asked for opinions on things eg what songs to sing, surveys (1)</li> </ul>	<p>It is pleasing to see that all members, without exception, thrive on the joy of singing together. New members often comment that they feel welcomed. Members enjoy the songs that we sing and find them uplifting and many commenting on the professionalism of our two expert musicians. They like the fact that we sing in and around the community and acknowledge the work done behind the scenes by the committee. They like the choice of songs; being asked for their opinions, especially on what songs to sing from the back catalogue or to suggest new songs, makes them feel valued.</p> <p>All observations made in the Members' Survey have been addressed or commented upon. Many have been incorporated into the Choir Improvement Plan (CIP) 2023/2024. Those observations that have been addressed previously and are now becoming embedded into normal practice, or which cannot be addressed, are commented upon in this column (see below)</p>

**What aspect of Llysfaen Singers could be improved?**

1. Tom could mouth the words/ improved bringing in (2)
2. Members should not be talking when others are practising (1)
3. Return to two hour rehearsals (6)
4. Spoken dictation of the non-English language songs onto Google drive (1)
5. More pieces from memory (1)
6. Separate rehearsals for SATB (2)
7. Shorter/different warm-ups (2)
8. Supply of music is sometimes difficult eg printing/different versions (1)
9. More new songs (4)
  
10. More tenors (1)
11. More social events to get to know people more(8)
12. Invite suggestions for songs from the members and let Tom decide (2)
13. Less Welsh/less choral (1)
  
14. Ask the audience what songs they like to listen to (1)
15. Sing through without so much individual practice initially (1)
  
16. Voice training courses (1)
17. Seating arrangements so that parts can hear each other better (1)

1. See Priority 1
2. See Priority 1
3. See Priority 1
4. See Priority 1
5. See Priority 1
6. See Priority 2
7. See Priority 2
8. See Priority 2
  
9. See Priority 2. Members will be asked for suggestions for each concert – this was introduced in the CIP 2022/2023 and will become embedded into normal practice. Tom will also use his professional expertise to recommend more new songs.
10. See Priority 3
11. See Priority 4
  
12. See CIP 2022/2023. This will become embedded into normal practice
  
13. As a community choir, the songs that we sing will always be eclectic. We agreed some years ago (formalised in CIP 2022/2023 and in line with the recent Ty Cerdd grant) that there should be one song in Welsh or another language: similarly, songs with a classic Welsh melody, words in English. The majority of songs are chosen by members
14. Choice of songs to be sung is down to the choir members and Tom
  
15. The ‘wrong and strong’ ethos plus a greater number of sing-throughs were introduced in the CIP 2022/2023 and will become embedded into normal practice during the 2023/2024 year
16. Tom can give a list of providers for those who wish to undertake these
17. This cannot be accommodated as the width of the stage is not the same as the width of the hall
18. Uniform was introduced into the S&A sections for the first time Summer concert 2022

**What's one thing about Llysfaen Singers that you would change?**

- 21. Disney songs for the summer concert (2)
- 22. Website and social media to be used more to attract new members (1)
- 23. Make CDs of our singing (1)
- 24. More advanced notice of dates for concerts (1)
- 25. Sit next to the same people in concerts and rehearsals (1)
- 26. Meet with other choirs for a concert/ sing at other festivals/different buildings eg church for acoustics (3)

- 21. Members will be asked for suggestions for the summer concert in January 2024
- 22. See Priority 3
- 23. See Priority 3
- 24. These are given out as soon as we know them.
- 25. This cannot be accommodated as the width of the stage is not the same as the width of the hall
- 26. See Priority 3. (Last year we sang at the Rhiwbina Christmas festival in a church. We also sang at the Lisvane Lighting of the Christmas Tree, Lisvane village fete, Lisvane Wellbeing morning, funeral)

**Improvement Plan 2023/ 2024**

**Commentary**

A survey was undertaken in June 2023 to gauge the opinions of members on what they liked about Llysfen Singers; what aspect of the choir they thought could be improved; what was one thing about the choir that they would change. 66% of members completed the survey. Nearly 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).

Tasks	Timescale	Persons involved	Progress R.A.Y.G.
<b>Priority 1:</b> To continue to improve rehearsal outcomes			
<b>Success Criteria:</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Phrasing and breathing will be synchronised</li> <li>Members are confident of their notes, words and pronunciation; around half of each piece of music will be sung from memory</li> </ul>			
1. Members to be proficient at watching MD at the beginning and ends of every phrase and to breathe at agreed points in the music	July 2024/Summer concert	MD All members	
2. Spoken Welsh and other music to be uploaded onto Googledrive	October (for Christmas concert) and February (for summer concert)	MD Acc	
3. Members to make greater use of Googledrive to learn more of the music/words/spoken Welsh enabling them to look up at the MD at agreed times and should continue to learn/revise their parts when others are rehearsing	July 2024/Summer concert	All Members	
4. Possible return to 2-hour rehearsals – 7:30-9:30pm. Membership numbers to be ascertained during the academic year 2023/2024 to determine whether this is financially	July 2024	Treasurer Committee	

## Action taken

### January 2024

1.
  - Members are becoming more aware of phrasing and are often taking breaths at appropriate points in the music. This will be a focus on the music for the summer concert
2.
  - Tom and Jay spent many hours ensuring all Christmas Concert music for all parts has been recorded, including pronunciation for Tua Bethlem Dref. This has been uploaded onto our Google drive account
3.
  - Many members seem to be using Google drive to practise at home to a greater or lesser degree. The link <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1F95yRktQccnZV8OloiSwv2hFgNIwPQx> has been inserted on all correspondence from the Secretary
4.
  - We will return to 2 hour rehearsals after the Easter holidays, with the possibility of returning earlier (after February half term) if Tom decides that is necessary

### April 2024

1.
  - As members are becoming more familiar with the music and the words, they are looking up at the MD more. This is important as he directs both dynamics and pace of the music. Several songs in the repertoire can be learned by heart to ensure choir members look up.
2.
  - All music and Welsh pronunciation has been uploaded.
3.
  - Members seem to be using Googledrive more; they are reminded by MD at appropriate times and Secretary has sent out the link on group emails.
4.
  - We have returned to 2-hour rehearsals and this will be reviewed in September at the next committee meeting

### June 2024

1.
  - As members have become more familiar with the music and words, they are looking at the MD more. MD is encouraging members to watch more at the beginnings and endings of phrases in order to both come in together and improve finishing off words with hard consonants.
2.
  - All music and Welsh pronunciation has been uploaded
3.
  - Members generally make good use of Googledrive: the Secretary has sent out the link in group emails

<b>Priority 2:</b> To continue to improve the rehearsal format			
<b>Success Criteria</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members will begin each rehearsal in a positive mood</li> <li>• Members will have all appropriate copies of music</li> </ul>			
1. Continue to introduce a wider variety of new music, including into the warm-ups, and drop overused songs particularly in the warm-ups	July 2024	MD	
2. MD to consider, if appropriate, separate practice sessions for SATB	July 2024	MD	
3. All music that needs to be photocopied (out of copyright or temporary copies until purchased music arrives) will be sourced by librarian rather than members (eg <a href="http://www.printingwales.com">www.printingwales.com</a> based in St Mellons)	October 2023 (for Christmas concert) February 2024 (for summer concert)	Librarian	

**Action taken****January 2024**

1.

- New music for the Christmas Concert included Auld lang Syne and O Holy Night; a new version of it's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas and new words in Ukrainian for Carol of the Bells. As over half the choir have only been with us since Covid, many songs were new to them
- There are some areas of the warm up that will be developed over the next term, including new songs/exercises

2.

- Separate sessions have not yet been felt to be appropriate. Members are encouraged to use the Google drive uploaded parts to practise at home

3.

- Librarian has sourced all photocopies for the Christmas Concert rather than members printing their own

**April 2024**

1.

- MD has introduced a wide variety of enjoyable songs and genres into the main repertoire. Warm up exercises and songs remain unchanged with a few breathing exercises introduced. MD will be concentrating on improved standards of concert repertoire: this may need to be carried forward to next year.

2.

- Up until now, this has been unnecessary. MD may use the first half hour of rehearsals for T & B practice / S & A practice during the next half term

3.

- Any music to be photocopied is done so in line with copyright laws. All other music has been purchased and all members have copies.

**June 2024**

1.

- Warm-up exercises are a necessary part of rehearsals and are intended to prepare the body for activity, to not strain the voice and to get the brain ready for learning new songs. This part of the priority will be carried forward to next year.

2.

- Tom has included a few extra rehearsals for some voice parts

3.

- Any music to be photocopied is done so in line with copyright laws. All other music has been purchased and all members have copies.

**Priority 3:** To improve publicity for the choir

**Success Criteria**

- Membership will increase to 50+
- Website, social media (eg Facebook) and Lisvane Link usage will be increased for improved communication channels to both members and the public and to advertise choir events
- Develop improved links with local businesses

1. Complete a timetable of publicity opportunities throughout the year	September 2023	Chair	
2. Increase media presence for members - overhaul website to include a joining form for new members	June 2024	Publicity Officer Secretary	
3. Contact businesses in Lisvane for sponsorship and advertising	June 2024	Publicity Officer	
4. Increase advertising opportunities by revamped flyer and leaflet drops	October 2023	Publicity Officer Committee	
5. Enquire on the viability of making and selling a CD	October 2023	Publicity Officer	



**Action taken  
January 2024**

1.
  - Timetable of publicity opportunities has been created, around half have been actioned
2.
  - Website was brought up to date in July 2023 and this needs further action: Chair and Publicity Officer are in communication about this. Publicity Officer to look at further potential of Facebook to increase engagement
  - Articles in September 2023 and January 2024 Lisvane Links, advert for Christmas Concert in December Link, on Facebook and in local venues (see 3. below)
3.
  - Adverts for Christmas Concert placed LMH x 3, Old School, Sainsbury's, Ty Mawr, Lisvane Stores, Lisvane Link
4.
  - No action on new members' flyer until after committee meeting January 2024 when there will be a decision on times for rehearsals. LMH have reserved a space on their community notice board for the flyer
5.
  - Graham has started to test recording equipment.

**April 2024**

1.
  - Facebook entries since January: February - 1 entry; March – 3 entries; April - 0 entries. Ideally there should be a minimum of 2/3 per month to maintain a viable presence on Facebook
2.
  - Chair has ensured that the current website is now up to date. PO shared ideas at January committee meeting on how a new website could look although no progress has been made to date. Chair has drafted a new joining form to include GDPR/contact and emergency details/permission for social and other media which was shared at the April committee meeting. This will need to be completed by new and existing members. Sec to add info onto GDPR forms. The info will be stored in the locked filing cabinet kept in the locked cupboard in LMH
3.
  - Adverts for Summer concert will be placed as above and additionally in businesses in Llanishen (printed on card where appropriate). Advert needs to be with the Link for the June edition ie by May 12<sup>th</sup>
4.
  - Revamped flyer has been drafted by PO and will be used to promote the choir at LCC wellbeing afternoon on May 15<sup>th</sup> and at the Village fete in June. This will be shared at the April committee meeting ready for printing
5.
  - Agreed that Graham will record elements of rehearsals and the concert to make a short video for the website: we may consider carrying on this priority into next year

<b>Priority 4:</b> To increase the number of social events			
<b>Success Criteria</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Members will have the opportunity to meet socially at least 3 times per year</li> <li>Many members will engage in most events</li> </ul>			
1.	Social Secretary to ascertain what members would like to do socially by completing a survey. 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"> <li>Social Secretary</li> <li>Committee</li> </ul>
<b>Action taken</b>			
<b>January 2024</b>			
1.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Social sub-committee organised a very successful Italian evening at the Old School in November attended by many members and partners.</li> </ul>		
<b>April 2024</b>			
1.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Social sub-committee have taken a straw poll amongst members to ascertain which event to organise and are looking forward to a bowling evening at Nantgarw on July 3<sup>rd</sup>.</li> <li>AGM will be used for a 3<sup>rd</sup> social event to celebrate the choir's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This will be a one-off celebration; costs are limited to £10 per head.</li> <li>Sub-committee have other plans in progress.</li> </ul>		
<b>June 2024</b>			
1.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Social sub-committee have taken a straw poll amongst members to ascertain which events to organise and have organised a very successful Italian evening in November. We are looking forward to a bowling evening at Nantgarw on July 3<sup>rd</sup>.</li> <li>The AGM will be used for a 3<sup>rd</sup> social event to celebrate the choir's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This will be a one-off celebration; costs are limited to £10 per head.</li> <li>Additionally, Graham invited those interested to attend Tom's concert on May 15<sup>th</sup> in Roath.</li> </ul>		