

## **Open Evening for New Members - FAQs**

### **What are we going to do?**

The aim of the evening is to introduce you to the wonderful world of four-part harmony singing. If you have not heard a chorus like ours singing live, we think that you are in for a treat! After explaining a little about the way, we sing, letting you dip your toe into the water with a bit of singing, as well as hearing us perform some numbers from our repertoire, we hope that you will think about joining us.

### **I have not sung before and feel unsure about making a bit of a fool of myself!**

It is entirely natural to feel self-conscious. Coming into a strange environment with people you hardly know can be a bit daunting. As soon as you walk through the door you will receive a warm welcome which should help you to relax. We will encourage you to have a go at singing and it would be unusual for you to get it right first time.

### **Will you expect me to sing on my own?**

As a newcomer, definitely not! We sing as a chorus split into four sections so you will be part of a group singing either Lead, Bass, Tenor or Baritone. More experienced members do sing in quartets but that is because they want to.

### **I would like to sing but have never had any formal training. Can you provide tuition?**

Yes! We will be running six week Learn to Sing Course (subject to numbers) starting on Thursday 19 October 2017, from 7.30pm to about 9.15pm, at our usual rehearsal venue in Potton. The course is designed for the novice singer to reach a stage where they can become a member of the Chorus. It is a mixture of theory and practice and includes access to sheet music and teach tracks on our members' website. It is completely free!

### **I know very little about this type of singing. Can I just come along, listen and watch to see if it is something that appeals to me?**

Of course! Visitors are always welcome. If you want to bring wives, partners and friends along for moral support, that is fine.

### **I have heard Shannon Express sing before. Can I really expect to reach the high standard of singing?**

About half of the singing membership have joined over the last four years and most of them had very little singing experience when they started. So the answer is yes!

### **I am an accomplished singer already, is it appropriate for me to attend?**

Definitely! This is an excellent opportunity to find out about Shannon Express. In particular, you may have sung in a chorus which may be a little different to four-part harmony. Depending upon your ability and experience it is possible for you to be fast-tracked through to full membership.

### **How much does it cost to become a member?**

The Learn To Sing Course is completely free as is attendance at our rehearsal evenings during this time and afterwards as you achieve the standard required to become a member. While it costs nothing, you will be expected to invest your time and energy in learning your craft.

**Can you give me an idea of the programme for the evening?**

The format for the evening depends quite a lot on the number of guests attending, so the actual format could vary. Going by past events it is likely to involve the following.

- A general introduction about the chorus.
- We start our rehearsal evenings with a routine to warm up our voices. You can join in or sit back and watch us (sometimes we do exercises which look or sound really silly!).
- We will demonstrate the basics of four-part harmony singing. Then you will be invited to join in with some posture, breathing and tuning exercises.
- We will encourage you to learn the lead part of a short song, almost certainly one you have heard before. The aim of this is to give you an idea of what it is like to sing as part of a group, not to test your singing quality!
- Towards the end of the evening we will break for refreshments and an opportunity to ask questions and talk to chorus members.

We look forward to welcoming you. It could be the best decision you make this year!