

GUILDFORD PHILHARMONIC CHOIR: AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

- The audition lasts only about ten minutes and gives the Chorus Master the opportunity to hear the quality and range of the voice, to assess the aural ability and musicianship of the singer. It is also a time when he can allocate semi-chorus places within the choir.
- The audition will consist of:
 - (i) some simple scales to warm up the voice and assess extent of vocal range.
 - (ii) a prepared piece (song, aria, folksong, hymn, extract from known choral work, etc.) about 2-3 minutes long.
An accompanist is available if required. (Bring music for her!)
N.B. This section is not required in a 5-minute re-audition which normally tests vocal range or for a specific weakness.
 - (iii) sight-reading - a short passage, accompanied.
 - (iv) ear-tests (picking out notes from a given triad, pitching intervals from a given note, singing back a simple melody played twice).
- The singer will be told of the outcome at the end and given a brief resume of the audition. A written report will subsequently be made available via the Membership Secretary.
- If successful, the singer will be asked to re-audition in three years' time.

If there are elements with which the Chorus Master is not entirely happy, he will ask the singer to re-audition the following year.

Singers from the choir who are re-auditioning who no longer meet the vocal demands of the choir will be asked to retire from the choir in their own time, but within the following year.

New singers who do not reach the required standard may be asked to come for audition again when the areas of concern have been improved upon.
- One final note: the formality of the above information belies the informal air that we try to impart to these auditions! Despite the inevitable nerves, do try to relax and not worry about it too much!

Jeremy Backhouse (Chorus Master)

July 1995