

## Joining Heartbeat Chorus

**Rehearsal Venue: Windlehurst Methodist Church, 121 Windlehurst Road, High Lane, Stockport SK6 8AF**

1. You've decided you'd like to give it a go!
  2. Nancy (our Musical Director) will voice test you to find out which voice part would suit you best. You can sing whatever you like – *Happy Birthday* is a favourite! Nancy will assess the range, strength and character of your voice to select the part most comfortable for you.
  3. You'll meet your Section Leader. Ask as many questions of her as you want!
  4. You will be given a current repertoire song to learn. Your Section Leader will send audio learning tracks by email.
  5. You will be allocated a buddy/mentor. She may be in the same section as you and will be able to help you through the first few weeks with Heartbeat – showing you the ropes and introducing you to other chorus members.
  6. If you can read music and would like a copy of the sheet music for your song, speak to your Section Leader.
  7. You'll learn this song over the next few weeks. Speak to your buddy/mentor/Section Leader if you have any problems or questions. Everyone is very helpful.
  8. During this time, you'll be able to stand on the risers with the chorus and join in:
    - the warm-up exercises at the beginning of rehearsal,
    - 'your song' whenever it is being rehearsed.
  9. It may take you around 4 weeks to learn your song – maybe less - and when you're feeling confident singing your part, speak to your Section Leader and she will arrange the next step in the induction process. This is to sing your part in a small group made up of you and (normally) the Section Leaders for the 3 other parts. Your own Section Leader will be there to support and assist you. Nancy will listen to you and give you positive feedback.
  10. When Nancy thinks you are ready, you will become an Associate Member of Heartbeat Chorus. Nancy or your Section Leader will let our Membership Secretary know you have become an Associate. If Nancy thinks you're not quite ready, you can work on the song some more and try again a week or two later, no problem. You will need to pass your audition then to progress to Associate Membership.
  11. You will be given at least one more song to learn. Your Section Leader will direct you to the audio learning tracks on the website. At least one of the songs you are given to learn will also involve some choreography for you to learn. Our Presentation Team (**Greer Vincent and Suzanne Mansfield**) will discuss and help you with this.  
Check us out on YouTube-  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DAuuxWqVjMM>
- Speak to your buddy/mentor/Section Leader/Greer/Suzanne at any time if you have questions or feel you need help.
12. You will pay a monthly subscription to the chorus. As an Associate Member this is at half of the rate for a full member. Currently, subs are £27 per month, so you will be expected to pay £13.50. There are ancillary costs involved from time to time also. For example, if the

chorus goes away to competition. Please speak to the Treasurer (**Janet Moreton**) and Membership Secretary (**Cathy Ellis**) to tell them about your new status!

13. As an Associate Member, you will be given limited access to the chorus website.
14. Over the next two months you will demonstrate that you can learn at least one other song, learn choreography and integrate with the chorus.
15. During this time, speak to your Section Leader and she'll arrange your second vocal test. Normally this is undertaken on the risers. She will listen to you sing with the chorus and give you feedback. She will tell Nancy whether she thinks you are vocally ready to become a full member.
16. If you are vocally ready, the **Presentation Team** will assess your suitability to perform. This is to ensure that the chorus gives a unified and coherent performance when on stage together. Their feedback will be positive and they will tell Nancy whether they think you are ready to become a full member or whether you need a little extra time.
17. If you are ready, you will become a Full Member of Heartbeat Chorus. Yay!
18. You start to pay full subs – currently £27 per month. Please tell the Treasurer and Membership Secretary about your new status! Attendance now becomes a key requirement with an expectation of at least 65% attendance.
19. Please also tell:
  - Janet Moreton (Treasurer). She will add you to the group email system and facilitate your full access to the Heartbeat Chorus website. This allows you to
    - access learning tracks for all the chorus songs
    - access sheet music for some of the songs
    - see the minutes of the Committee Meetings
    - see the Members' Directory
    - access other interesting information
  - Isobel Currie (Dress Team). She will discuss costumes with you. You will need to provide details of your dress size, etc. and pay a deposit for the costumes that chorus provides. This will be returned to you when you leave the chorus and you return any costumes you have. Currently the deposit is £20.
20. Your Section Leader will schedule the songs you should start to learn.
21. Please give feedback to your buddy/mentor and your Section Leader about the buddy/mentor system – what worked (or didn't work) for you and how it might be improved – and about the induction process as a whole.

**Contact details – any questions please get in touch with our **Membership Secretary, Cathy Ellis** at [membership@heartbeatchorus.com](mailto:membership@heartbeatchorus.com)**

## GLOSSARY of TERMS

**Buddy** – this is the person who will help you through your initial weeks at chorus and will answer any questions you may have. If they don't know the answer, they'll find it out for you.

**Mentor** – this is the person assigned to you to help with your integration into chorus life. Similar to your buddy but will help with your learning progress and singing development.

**Risers** – these are a tiered modular system of staging that we normally stand on during rehearsals and at concerts and competitions.

### Voice parts

**TENOR** – a high range (soprano).

**LEAD** – carries the main melody throughout a song.

**BARITONE** – makes the rest of the parts sound good! Mid-range voice, a baritone will sing above and below the lead line of a song.

**BASS** – a low range and supporting the parts above it. Sometimes sings the countermelody.

**Section Rehearsal** – this is a rehearsal for a specific single voice part - rather than singing with all the other parts – to help secure notes and words in a song and to resolve any issues within the learning process. It can happen at a weekly rehearsal or as an extra curricula activity on the lead up to a contest.

**Singout** – this is a concert or entertainment set where the chorus performs and entertains usually with an agreed fee as payment.

**Afterglow** – this is the party after all the singing and competing is done and dusted.

**Retreat weekend** – this is an arranged weekend scheduled some weeks (even months) into the calendar where the chorus members gather for coaching by known figures within the world of a cappella singing and/or barbershop.

**TAG** – a tag is the final short section of a song which can be sung as a little ditty on its own. Often just four or five bars of music, it is often sung to warm up the voice, blend the parts and to help train the singer's ear to 'listen'.

### Sweet Adelines International

[www.sweetadelines.com](http://www.sweetadelines.com)

Heartbeat is a registered member of SAI.

SAI is an international organisation connecting thousands of singers around the world in the barbershop art form of four-part close harmony a cappella singing and musical education. It is split into geographical regions and each region holds an annual contest.

### Quartet of Nations - Region 31

[www.sweetadelines.org.uk](http://www.sweetadelines.org.uk)

Is the SAI region to which this chorus is registered.

**Regional Convention/Contest** – this is the annual SAI competition held in each region within the organization.

### This Glossary written by:

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