

Community Chorus (South)

Autumn/Winter 2019
Call Out Information

Autumn 2019 WNO Community Chorus (South) Opportunity

Now a regular feature in the WNO calendar and returning by popular demand, WNO's Community Chorus and Welsh National Youth Opera will join forces once again to celebrate the start of the Christmas Season in style with performances at the atmospheric and historic Coal Exchange Building in the centre of Cardiff Bay (now the Exchange Hotel).

This year, there will be 3 performances on the evenings of 3 and 4th December (see rehearsal and performance dates below).

We are recruiting a South Wales-based group of singers to be at the heart of the celebratory performances. As the days shorten and nights grow darker, WNO's backstage rehearsal spaces will fill with song as we warm the soul with community singing. This Christmas Community Chorus will learn a mixed repertoire of seasonal music to perform independently and also combine with the Youth Opera groups for a rousing finale to each performance, all interspersed with classic congregational carols giving the audience the chance to join in with the festivities.

A team of professional artists from WNO will lead the weekly rehearsals with professional musicians joining us to accompany the final performances.

Who can take part?

To be eligible for this opportunity you need to be:

- 18 years old or over
- Committed and able to attend all the rehearsals outlined below (1 pre-arranged missed rehearsal will be permissible if absolutely necessary)
NB - We understand that on occasion unforeseen circumstances such as illness may prevent you from attending rehearsal(s) however should you need to miss more than one rehearsal then it may not be possible for you to take part in the rest of the project.
- Available for the performances on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, 3rd and 4th of December 2019

You do NOT need to audition to take part in this project! Although the ability to read music is always helpful, it isn't essential for this project as WNO will provide learning tracks to help with music learning.

How do I join?

To register your interest in this project, please complete the online application form that can be found on Welsh National Opera's website here:

wno.org.uk/take-part/community-chorus/community-chorus-south

Applications must be submitted **by 5pm on Friday 13th September 2019.**

Within the form there is space for you to provide us with details of any medical conditions you have. By providing us with this information (which will be treated confidentially) we are able to consider whether we are able to provide the infrastructure required (facilities

and human resources) to enable your safe participation and that of your fellow choristers in the project.

Please note that any applications received after the closing date will not be considered. You will be advised about whether your application is successful by email as soon as possible after that date.

We hope to be able to offer places to all singers who are able to commit to the dates. We have capacity for a maximum of 120 Community Chorus singers, and as far as possible we will be aiming for a balanced choir with an even split of voice types.

Should you experience any difficulties accessing the online application form, please email: community.chorus@wno.org.uk

Autumn 2019 Rehearsal and Performance Dates

Rehearsals:

Sunday 13 October	2-5pm	Wales Millennium Centre
Sunday 20 October	2-5pm	Wales Millennium Centre
Sunday 27 October	2-5pm	Wales Millennium Centre
Sunday 3 November	2-5pm	Wales Millennium Centre
Sunday 10 November	2-5pm	Wales Millennium Centre
Sunday 17 November	2-5pm	Wales Millennium Centre
Sunday 24 November	2-5pm	Wales Millennium Centre
Sunday 1 December	2-5pm	Wales Millennium Centre

NB You will be required to be at Wales Millennium Centre **for 1.30 pm** on the above dates to commence the sign-in procedure to access the backstage rehearsal area(s) in order for rehearsals to start promptly at 2.00 pm each time.

Please also note that repeated lateness for rehearsals may prevent you from continuing with the project at the discretion of WNO staff.

Performances:

Tuesday 3 December	from 5pm (tbc)	The Exchange Hotel, Cardiff Bay
Wednesday 4 December	from 5pm (tbc)	The Exchange Hotel, Cardiff Bay

The nature of the performance(s)

WNO's Christmas Celebration is taking place in the great hall of The Exchange Hotel, with the Community Chorus seated on the raised stage in view of the audience throughout the performances, under theatrical conditions: with bright lights, a musical ensemble close by and set dressing. On Tuesday (3 December) there will be a final rehearsal in the early evening and one performance, and on the Wednesday (4 December) there will be two performances.

Singers will need to be comfortable in front of an audience, able to learn lyrics, and music confidently so as not to be dependent on word sheets and able to follow direction from the Community Chorus Master and any other WNO staff working on the project.

The Christmas performances are part of WNO's annual programme, and the Community Chorus music team will work with the group to reach the level of excellence the company is known for. This will be an opportunity to learn from leading vocal coaches and musicians, and work on all aspects of performance. In order to reach this standard we expect singers to be conscientious during rehearsals, independent, focussed and able to follow instructions. We also expect singers to arrive promptly to start work at the top of rehearsal sessions (and you will be rewarded with a tea break half way through, with biscuits and jaffa cakes ... a tried and tested WNO favourite!).

Is there a cost?

There is a cost of £25 per singer to take part in the project, payable in advance. Once you are offered a place WNO will ask for payment, either by cheque or bank transfer, to secure your spot.

There is also a £10 music deposit, refundable at the end of the project if music and black WNO folder are returned undamaged. Music deposits are collected at the first rehearsal.

Should the fees cause any concern, please get in touch on: community.chorus@wno.org.uk

Why should I take part?

Don't just take it from us, here's some of the feedback from our previous Community Chorus adventures:

"This was my first performance and I loved it! I hope it is the first of many"

"I was completely overwhelmed by the sound tonight. Wow! It's been an amazing experience"

We look forward to hearing from you,

JENNIFER HILL

Youth & Community Producer