



## Information for members

Welcome to Chantage. We are a dynamic and vibrant choir based in London. We thrive on having a team of singers who are dedicated and committed to maintaining the high standard of singing that people have come to expect from Chantage. We encourage our singers to build on their skills through workshops, challenging repertoire and by welcoming new ideas and compositions.

Unlike most other choirs, we do not believe in charging a subscription fee, but in return ask that members contribute to certain costs, for example travel and uniforms. The only money Chantage makes is from paid projects and sales of our CD. We have no regular fixed income and therefore need to avoid incurring costs for things such as depts unless absolutely necessary and maintaining our high standard is essential to guarantee the type of high-profile projects we want to work on.

## Projects

Chantage works on a yearly system of projects and we ask members to sign up for these in advance in order to secure each project. Once the choir has committed to a project, we are liable to any cancellation fees or dep costs should we not have enough singers. In cases where a member has committed to a project and then cancelled within two weeks of a performance and we cannot find a replacement from within the choir, we ask for that member to contribute £50 towards the cost of a dep (this cost is mostly subsidised by the choir). We would of course prefer not to need depts at all which is why we ask for a certain level of commitment from all Chantage members.

As members of Chantage we expect that you will take an active part in the choir. Taking part in a substantial number of our projects is part of this and a natural expectation of the choir. If a member is unable to take part in **three consecutive projects**, we will have to consider whether that member can offer the level of commitment we ask for to maintain Chantage's high standards.

## Rehearsals

Chantage rehearses every week at St Dunstan's in the West on Fleet Street starting at 7.15 pm until 9.30pm, with a ten minute tea break at 8.30pm. We ask members to arrive promptly to ensure we make the best use of our time and all contribute the same dedication and effort. Continued late arrival often means a member misses the most important part of rehearsal – the warm up! This is where the choir sound is prepared, and forms the basis of Chantage's success.

It is important that there is a good level of concentration during rehearsals and we ask members to respect the other singers and the conductor by not being disruptive or distracted (for example using your mobile phone) during the rehearsal. There is plenty of time to socialise with other members before rehearsal, during the break and afterwards at the pub. If you cannot make a rehearsal, you must let the Choir Manager know in advance.

We plan our rehearsals based around the projects we are doing throughout the year. We will provide members with a schedule for rehearsals, outlining which rehearsals are dedicated to which projects, which rehearsals are compulsory and any other events such as Chantage socials, AGMs or holidays.

To maintain our good reputation and continue to secure the best gigs in the future, members must be able to sign up for projects and commit to the required rehearsals. The choir cannot accommodate members who cannot commit fully.

### **St Dunstan's Services**

Chantage has a long-standing agreement with St Dunstan's in the West where we rehearse free of charge every week. This means we do not have to pass on the cost of a rehearsal venue to our members. In exchange, we perform five services for St Dunstan's every year. Typically: Easter Wednesday, Good Friday, St Dunstan's Day in May, an advent carol service on the first Sunday in December and a lunchtime carol service in the week before Christmas.

We ask each member of Chantage to commit to a minimum of **3 out of 5** of these services in order to fulfil their commitment to Chantage and St Dunstan's. For **each** service you cannot commit to of the required 3, you are asked to contribute £20 towards the cost of securing a dep in your absence.

### **Music**

As Chantage does not charge a subscription fee, all costs for new music are met by the choir itself. We often buy scores which are expensive and trust our members to look after these carefully. For all new members we ask for a £20 deposit towards the music, which covers the cost of each score lost or damaged.

### **Uniforms**

Gents – standard uniform for men in Chantage is a black DJ, white wing-collared dress shirt and a bowtie (provided by Chantage), and polished black shoes. You are expected to make sure you look presentable.

Ladies – standard uniform for ladies in Chantage is smart black trousers, black top (provided by Chantage) and corsage (provided by Chantage). We ask for discreet jewellery to be worn, no large earrings or necklaces.