

South Devon Choir



Survey May 2022

Committee's response

38 completed surveys were returned. This is a 61% response based on the choir's membership at the time of the survey (May 2022)

Key Findings

*We
asked...*

*for your views on the music we sing, particularly
focusing on the balance of different types of music
and the level of challenge.*

You said...

the choir's repertoire and the amount of challenge are about right; there should be a balance between new/unfamiliar works and known/familiar works

the spring term (2022) programme was too challenging but tackling new works is important because they present a good level of challenge

some said that there was an over emphasis on sacred works and that a better balance should be struck between sacred and secular works

many of you enjoyed the range of music rehearsed during lockdown

a recurring comment was remembering the choir is a non-audition choir and that members' musical knowledge and skills are very varied

*We
have...*

*we changed the November 2022 concert programme
replacing Handel's Ode St Celia with popular works including
secular works*

planned this season's repertoire bearing in mind your comments

programmed *The Creation* because it is familiar but includes number of challenging choral passages

decided the programme for the June 2023 workshop is to be Vivaldi's '*Gloria*' and Parry's '*I was Glad*'. The workshop will be in aid of The Rowcroft Hospice

begun planning an exciting joint concert for November 2023

*We
asked...*

*about our weekly rehearsals, focusing on the
amount learnt and length of each rehearsal*

You said...

the amount learnt in each rehearsal to be about right; it is important to leave rehearsals with a sense of achievement, enjoyment and progress

better learning is achieved by focusing on several works (or sections of works) in one rehearsal. Not everyone agreed with many preferring to concentrate on a single work

it is important to consider the range of musical experience, skills and knowledge of members and that these must be taken into account during rehearsals

the rehearsal length is right and that a break is essential to help build good relationships across the choir

workshops should be something special and not simply extra rehearsals

*We
have...*

ensured that concert programmes take account of the choir's range of musical skills and experience

maintained rehearsal length and re-introduced a break

agreed that workshops will not be used as extra rehearsals

agreed that workshops will be in aid of a local charity as well as contributing towards recruitment and increasing our exposure in the area

*We
asked...*

*for your ideas about supporting recruitment, retention
and the range of social activities*

You said...

social media is a useful way of supporting recruitment but no specific ideas were given

it is important to project a positive image of the choir, not 'just oldies getting together

some concerns were raised about subscription rates

repertoire is seen as key to supporting retention and recruitment

the welcome given to new members is important

the choir's performance areas and venues could be widened

most members consider the number of social activities to be about right although venues and times are not always convenient

*We
have...*

placed recruitment adverts in the local press

we have increased our local exposure by contributing to the late Queen's memorial service, the British Legion's Service of Remembrance and singing carols at Occombe Farm

introduced Section Leaders to welcome and support new members

revised the enrolment pack with further revisions being planned

planned future concerts/workshops in areas across Torbay

planned a range of further social activities

*We
asked*

*what feedback you receive from friends or relatives who
have attended our concerts*

You said...

audience comments relating to performance standards are very positive

audiences prefer and enjoy familiar works

the price of tickets is mentioned a considerable number of times. There are two views: those who consider the price is fair and comparable to similar choirs and those who consider the price is too high when taking into account those on limited income, travel, parking fees and length of concert.

*We
have...*

been delighted that since performing in public again audiences have been impressed with the overall high standard of our performances as noted earlier, revised concert programmes to ensure a careful balance of familiar and unfamiliar works

considered carefully the ticket prices and decided that our pricing structure is correct

found our prices are comparable to other local choirs as well as helping to contribute towards offsetting the total cost of each concert

concluded that it is not financially viable to charge less

*We
asked...*

*are there any other comments you would like to
make?*

You said...

the increased travel costs for those who live at some distance from Central Church coupled with the rise in subscription can present financial issues

the idea of a smaller group to perform at weddings, funerals etc

opportunities to join with other choirs

promoting the choir as a health and well-being activity

members recognise and thank the director of music and the committee for their work

*We
have...*

considered carefully the rehearsal venue and concluded that Central Church is the preferred option due to acoustics and a first rate piano

begun to make plans for a joint concert with another local choir in November 2023. More information coming soon