

# Wrablers Constitution as of January 2026 AGM

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## Introduction

Wrablers is a small chamber choir composed of a core of no more than 16 people, meeting weekly or fortnightly, to sing close harmony songs.

The group will be self-selecting and each member will be comfortable holding a part alone, and occasionally performing solo or as a lead singer with backing singers.

## Membership

The group is intended for experienced harmony singers who want to have the opportunity to sing close harmony in small groups.

Singers must be able to hold a part alone, (ie in a four-part harmony sing, they must be able to sing, for example, the alto part alone).

## Learning and Practice

Members undertake to be responsible for their own learning and practice.

This means that they will attend rehearsals having learned material at home to the best of their ability. Rehearsals are for putting parts together, blending and working on dynamics, not for learning or practising parts.

Members will maintain their own portfolio of song sheets/lyrics/recordings from which to learn.

## Attendance

Members undertake to attend rehearsals on a regular basis, and to arrive promptly wherever possible.

Members who are unable to attend regularly may be asked to leave to make room for a new member who is able to attend more often.

A register of attendance will be kept by recording in the rehearsal minutes.

## Breaks

Members may from time to time take breaks from Wrablers.

Breaks of up to six months (or one term) may be taken as needed, but longer breaks need to be reviewed by the group as a whole.

## Decision Making

Decisions are made democratically by a quorum of members. A quorum is defined as three quarters of the current membership. To be carried a vote must have two thirds plus one of those present in favour (as long as they are quorate).

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Decisions can be taken both in meetings and via electronic means (such as email and Doodle). Proxy votes are allowed.

A record of decisions is kept by the record keeper (currently Juliana) and uploaded to the Decisions Page at [members.wrablers.co.uk](https://members.wrablers.co.uk).

## **New Member Recruitment**

Potential new members will be invited to attend up to 2 rehearsals as a guest

They are then required to audition, by demonstrating they can hold a part on their own (by singing a song which is part of our repertoire in a quartet) and singing a song of their choice.

In advance of their audition, potential members will be sent a part to learn, which suits their voice

At the end of this process, there will be a meeting of all members without the new recruit.

In this meeting, the members will assess the new recruit against the Person Specification (Appendix A) currently in use, and may decide:

- a) by majority to extend their probation period
- b) by majority to terminate the new recruit's membership
- c) unanimously to terminate the probation period and confirm the new recruit's full membership

The new recruit's probation period will continue day-to-day until such a decision is made.

## **Resignation**

If members resign, they must reapply for membership in the way described in section 3. (New Member Recruitment) above. Fees are non-refundable.

## **Management**

The group is run as a collective and decisions are made on a consensus-driven and egalitarian basis. We aim to keep group management to a minimum and singing to a maximum.

A small sub group of members will undertake the admin and management roles necessary to ensure the smooth running of the choir.

A list of regular tasks is available with members allocated to each task. We will review this list of tasks at each AGM and make changes as necessary.

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The role of chair for rehearsals will rotate amongst the Wrablers, a schedule for which will be available on the website.

The chair will take notes during the rehearsal and publish them on the website. The choir has a website for the sharing of MP3s and other teaching materials at [members.wrablers.co.uk](http://members.wrablers.co.uk). This site is password protected and will not be available to anyone who is not a member of Wrablers.

Any member may edit this website, but its contents are not to be shared with non-Wrablers.

A public-facing website is located at [www.wrablers.co.uk](http://www.wrablers.co.uk). This is to be used for publicity purposes, e.g. recruiting new members and to showcase our work to potential bookers.

## **Song Sponsors**

The role of the Song Sponsor is to have a view on how the song should sound, and to be responsible for knowing start notes, noting any changes to these, and keeping the song page on the website up to date, through review of the minutes posted after a rehearsal of their particular songs.

## **Repertoire**

The group will undertake to sing a good eclectic mix of songs drawn from many different musical traditions.

On occasion, the group may choose to perform accompanied pieces and to invite musicians to accompany us, but in the main the repertoire will be a cappella.

Members are encouraged, if they wish to do so, to offer songs for the repertoire and to undertake to provide teaching materials for members to learn from.

This is intended to :-

- a) enrich the repertoire
- b) develop members' skills in sourcing suitable repertoire
- c) develop confidence
- d) share the responsibility for the repertoire
- e) allow members to share songs they love and ensure something for everyone in the repertoire.

Choir members who wish to suggest songs will look for a SATB arrangement and then forward this to the repertory group.

SATB arrangements can be purchased, if the repertory group agree

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Religious songs are not forbidden, but the repertoire will never consist of mainly, or only, religious songs at any given time.

Wrablers will aim to learn a new repertoire of about 10 songs a term.

As well as this, a core repertoire of “old favourites” will be kept live by regular revisiting.

## Rehearsals

Wrablers meet every two weeks, increasing to weekly as concerts approach, and with two separate one-day rehearsals at a weekend.

In the immediate lead up to these, additionally, a smaller sub-set (or sub-sets) of Wrablers may meet informally to work on songs.

Rehearsals generally last for two hours, including AOB, and a comfort break.

Rehearsals continue throughout the summer. Members who are away or unable to attend for several weeks are expected to catch up on their learning while away.

## Rehearsal format

In order to use our time most efficiently at rehearsals, we will follow the following procedure.

- Members will arrive knowing their parts and who their fellow singers are
- We will practise singing in small group quartets to improve the blend, when appropriate.
- If a song is transposed up or down at rehearsal, a new myr file and sheet music will be produced for playback and reading purposes. New MP3s will not normally be produced.
- Feedback on how songs are progressing will be given by the music director .

## Feedback

As per the person specification, members of Wrablers should be prepared to offer and receive constructive feedback from other members of the group on various aspects of their membership, such as their contribution, performance skills, blending, and so on. Feedback will be given in as supportive a way as possible, and where known, in the recipient's preferred format and style.

## Performances

Wrablers will produce two major performances a year, to which all members are expected to attend and participate in.

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The group are free to seek other performance opportunities.

## **Musical Director**

Our rehearsals and concerts are led by the musical director “See the current Musical Director Agreement (separate document).

Members are free to investigate possibilities of other forms of musical development such as workshops and to suggest them to the group

## **Costs**

Primary expenses for members are musical director fees and rental of rehearsal space.

These are both paid out from the central fund.

Current fee for director is £95 per two hour rehearsal, £200 for the all day rehearsals.

Current price of rehearsal room at the Golden Lane Community Centre is £9.75 per hour

Payment for the Musical director is ‘as requested’ by the Treasurer (usually in £100 payments).

Payments for performance hall hire are handled separately and divided equally amongst members

An entrance fee is charged for our two main concerts, currently £8.00 for a prebooked online ticket and £10 on the door

New members pay fees as requested by treasurer.

Fees are non-refundable.

Treasurer (Colin) produces a summary of accounts at the Annual General Meeting.

Auditor (Robin) scrutinizes and audits the accounts.

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## Appendix A

### Wrabler Person Specification

#### Essential Qualities for Membership

1. Be a competent harmony singer, ie
  - a. Be able to sing in tune
  - b. Be able to hold your part against another
  - c. Be able to blend your voice with the ensemble
  
2. Put the work in, ie
  - a. Attend rehearsals regularly
  - b. Attend rehearsals on time
  - c. Be responsible for maintaining your own learning materials
  - d. Come to rehearsals having learned your part
  - e. Participate in the tasks required to keep Wrablers active, ie:
    - i. Sponsor a song occasionally
    - ii. Chair rehearsals
    - iii. Produce minutes and upload to website

#### Desirable Qualities for Membership

1. Take part in social and learning events, eg
  - a. socialize after rehearsals
  - b. participate in other informal performances
  
2. Do the other, occasional hard work:
  - a. Arrange gigs
  - b. Produce publicity materials
  - c. Find new repertoire
  
3. Be able to give and receive feedback in a constructive and supportive way