

My First Visit (to a King's Lynn Community Choir rehearsal)

I'm in my seventies. I'm not a talented singer. I don't remember lyrics. However, I've been in various choirs for a little over 20 years ! I remember the buzz and adrenaline I used to get when singing for an audience. The adrenaline has faded, but the buzz remains.

As a member of the audience, and on recommendation, I attended the winter concert 2022 at St Nicks in King' Lynn. There must have been seventy singers or so and they sounded wonderful. Between songs the MD (Charlotte) demonstrated her charisma, and the MD/choir rapport was evident. I decided that although I was already a member of a local choir, I would check this one out.

I guess that the timing was fortuitous. The concert marked the fuzzy line between current and future repertoire, so when I pitched up for the first rehearsal of January 2023, the repertoire was under review for the Summer 23 concert and most of the music would be new to all members.

So, already knowing where and when, I turned up in a large room already populated with 40-50 people and more arriving. My experience suggested that I would be stared at and largely ignored. Imagine my surprise when several people, men and women, came up to me and, in a friendly manner, enquired about my reasons for being there. Being a bass singer, I was introduced to some of the other basses (Trevor, Jon, John, Bob, James, Martin) and made to feel very welcome. The MD spotted me and came to introduce herself. We exchanged pleasantries. A pre-prepared folder of music was thrust into my hands, and I was asked if I could read music. I can't. "Not to worry" was the response. I was guided to sit with the basses and the rehearsal started. The MD welcomed me and introduced me to the choir.

We all started to learn the new music line by line, section by section (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass). I can't sight-read music, so I was gratified to learn that this choir provides home rehearsal mp3s. Two rehearsals are stipulated as the free entitlement before subscription, but I was already sold. I signed up and paid up the same night. As a result, I received my home rehearsal stuff by email in the following week ! I've been a member ever since.

We currently have 10 Basses on the books with a similar number of Tenors. The ladies outnumber us ! More members are very welcome but more men are needed. Come and try us out, there's nothing to lose and potentially a lot to gain.

Dave