

# Wellington Place Workplace Choir FAQs

PROVIDED BY **MEPC**

## When and where does the choir take place?

Choir sessions are for an hour (from 12.30pm to 1.30pm) on Fridays on the ground floor of 3 Wellington Place (the building with Caffe Nero). There are occasional breaks for half term and other holidays.

## I've never sung in a choir before – does that matter?

That's no problem at all. That's the same for most of those who come to the choir. It's not like a "normal" choir. There are no formalities, no solos and no auditions. We just turn up and sing.

## How is it organised?

Although the sessions are light-hearted and informal, they are professionally organised by Nic Slack, who helped establish the "Rock Choir" in this region and featured as a choir leader in the 2011 ITV documentary *The Choir that Rocks*.

Nic plays the keyboards and is usually accompanied by Stu on the guitar. Between them they make magic out of a group of people of varying singing abilities. They produce an arrangement of a song in three-part harmony (low, mid and upper parts). Singers go in whichever of those three groups we like. Nic takes us through their parts and brings it all together to produce an amazing sound – all in an hour. If you have never been part of anything like that, you'd be amazed at how it sounds – and how much fun it is to create.

## I enjoy singing, but I'm not very good at it...

That really doesn't matter – honestly! We sing in groups. No one sings solo. Musicians will tell you that everyone can sing. When you are in a group you pick up the tune together so if you enjoy singing, come along and try it.

## I don't like singing in public, so is this for me?

You don't have to sing in public. We meet in a private room and sing as a group to ourselves.

Occasionally we are asked to perform at some event, whether on Wellington Place or elsewhere. That is entirely voluntary. Some choir members love doing that, others prefer not to do so. It's fine either way. Nic runs other choirs in the area (under the SoChoir! brand). Some of the events are run with the wider SoChoir! group. Every so often the SoChoir! group also organises a video shoot (usually on a Sunday afternoon), where a few songs are recorded – that's great fun for those who enjoy that sort of thing, but is again entirely voluntary and no one minds if you prefer not to come along to those sessions.

## Aren't choirs for old people?

Some choirs may be, but this one isn't! There is a full age range – and a diverse group of people from around the business district. They all have just one thing in common, which is that they enjoy singing!

## Do I need to work on Wellington Place?

No. All you need to be able to do is to get to 3 Wellington Place. The sessions last an hour, but can run over by 5 minutes or so.

No one minds if you arrive late or leave early. If you need to do so though, do try to convince your boss or colleagues to let you have a little longer than an hour for your lunch break. In an age where much is made

of mental health and wellbeing, there is plenty of evidence that joining a choir is really good for you. Bring a colleague or friends along too – we are trying to build up the choir and would love to have more people join in, because it simply sounds better, the more voices we have!

## What sort of songs do you sing?

We sing arrangements of pop songs, from classics like *California Dreamin'* and *Happy Together* to *Africa*, with bits of *Madonna*, *The Foo Fighters*, *Take That*, *The Police*, *U2* and *Ed Sheeran* thrown in.

Sometimes, Nic finds a song that none of us has ever heard before and turns it into beautiful three-part harmony (which becomes our new favourite song in an instant). If you want to get a flavour of some of the songs, have a look and listen to the SoChoir! YouTube channel that you can find **here**. Those recordings are taken from the Sunday afternoon video shoots that Nic arranges with the various choirs (including ours) – an optional extra which you don't need to join in if you prefer just to come along on Friday lunchtimes.

If you use Spotify you can find a comprehensive list of songs that we've sung by searching for the Wellington Place Workplace Choir playlist.

## What does it cost?

There is a voluntary suggested contribution of **£5 per session**, payable on the day. The choir is also subsidised by some local businesses, which helps to keep contributions voluntary.

## How can I keep in touch?

To be added to the mailing list to be kept informed of future sessions, please send an email to [wellingtonplaceworkplacechoir@gmail.com](mailto:wellingtonplaceworkplacechoir@gmail.com)