

The Singing ManiFUNsto

Dawn HJ

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"We all sing for the joy of it, and the wonderful sense of shared energy and creativity that brings, but the other side of the coin is the energy, coordination and commitment required to make it all happen."

Some additional guidelines: (we have to start taking them seriously)

- Read your e-mail. Regularly.
- New members can only join in September or January, and even then should check with Dawn before coming. At the moment, there are no more openings for Sopranos or Altos.
- Those who cannot make regular practices, we love to have you still, for the Studio Singers would not have the fabulous talent (and large men's section) if we did not welcome those who are too busy to be at all rehearsals. If you miss more than three practices during a term, please think about how that will impact any upcoming performance. As you know, we rarely sing things "as written" so it is important to know the changes. There are times when having missed four practices will not be a problem (for example, when we sing at the tree lighting ceremony – it's outside and very informal) but there will also be times from now on when we will have to ask the people with lower attendance to miss a concert due to space issues.

Numbers: We seem to have "an embarrassment of riches in membership." (Source unknown, but rumour has it was a bass.) Large numbers mean more challenges. It does cause a problem with some venues we play.

The aims of the Studio Singers are simple to say, not so simple to live:

- to have fun
- to be inclusive
- to entertain
- to learn and improve our singing
- to serve the community

We cannot have fun if there is discord. We cannot have fun if people will not take responsibility for their music and knowing what they've missed. We cannot have fun if we are not open to newcomers. But we cannot have fun if we grow so big that we can't perform anywhere.

We cannot entertain if we are not having fun singing. We can't have fun singing if we are not singing at our best possible level. We can't sing at our best possible level if too many singers miss too many practices and then attend the concert.

The only way we can grow and improve is to keep a healthy mix of long time regulars and fresh voices. But we also need the not-as-often people to figure out ways to keep up that don't impact on the whole choir. One person works with recordings of rehearsals, another gets Peter's audio Finale transcripts and learns from that. The Alto section sometimes gets a small group together to work on the tricky bits. And I know several of the regulars are happy to work with newer people or people who have missed to catch them up.

We cannot serve the community if we can't fit into any venue, if we can't sing to our best ability, and if we have stopped having fun.