



Guidelines for

Cantóirí

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1 Cantóirí

The name of our choir is Cantóirí.

1.1 Values

The following words sum up the most important values of Cantóirí:

- **Welcoming**... for example, towards new members and new music.
- **Different**... for example, from other choirs in our music and spirit.
- **Eclectic**... for example, in our choice of music.
- **International**... for example, in membership and music.
- **Fun**... to be in the choir, and to practice and perform with us.

2 Performance

The performances undertaken by Cantóirí are decided by the committee in consultation with the Musical Director.

Cantóirí undertakes a mixture of primary and secondary performances. No more than nine performances are undertaken by Cantóirí in any choral year. Exceptions to this limit may be made with the recommendation of the committee.

2.1 Primary Performances

At the minimum the following primary performances are undertaken:

- **A Winter performance** at St.Columba's College (December/January, or in agreement with the college).
- **A Spring performance** in a semi-formal setting of approximately 30 minutes duration (March/April).
- **A Summer end-of-year performance** in a semi-formal setting of approximately 60 minutes duration (June).

Primary performances may be ticketed events. Such events operate on a break-even basis.

2.2 Secondary Performances

The following secondary performances may also be undertaken:

- **Outreach performance** at a venue to be recommended by the committee (January/February).
- **Sligo choral competition** (October)
- **New Ross choral competition** (May)

2.3 Other Performances

Other performances may be undertaken at the recommendation of the committee, for example:

- **Collaboration** performances with choirs similar to Cantóirí in values and music. (Reciprocal performances may be undertaken at shared venues)
- **Corporate** performances, for which Cantóirí is contracted to perform for payment.
- **Recordings** for the enjoyment of the choir.

2.4 Venues

A venue that is both comfortable for the choir (good acoustic) and for the audience (good seating and refreshment facilities) is required for primary performances. These requirements are preferred but not a prerequisite for secondary performances.

2.5 Presentation

Cantóirí performances are primarily choral. However, non-choral elements may be introduced at the discretion of the committee, e.g. solos, recitations, dance, etc.

Cantóirí is a "from-memory" choir and do not perform with folders. Exceptions to this made be made at the discretion of the Musical Director in consultation with the committee.

On stage choreography should be prepared in advance of a performance, i.e. 'coming-on' and 'going-off' stage. Where possible, Cantóirí should have the opportunity to rehearse in a venue to be used for a primary performance.

2.6 Preparation

Cantóirí must be at performance standard for all music to be sung at a primary event. The selection of repertoire is made three rehearsals before an event. Decisions about standard and repertoire are the responsibility of the Musical Director.

3 Music

Cantóirí considers the selection of repertoire as a key element in maintaining the distinct nature of the choir. The repertoire of Cantóirí is 'eclectic' and 'different'. The ambition of the choir is to express the spirit and character of the repertoire.

The selection of repertoire for Cantóirí is made by the Musical Director in co-operation with committee, and is a reflection of the musical ability of the choir.

The core repertoire of Cantóirí is a cappella arranged for four-part SATB, from all around the world, for example classical, folk and sacred.

At least three-quarters of all music performed must be in a Western European Language, including English and Irish.

The quantity of music performed from the repertoire is set by the ability of the choir to sing all pieces to performance standard at a primary event.

Repertoire from past years may be recycled.

A library of past repertoire is maintained.

4 Rehearsal

Cantóirí considers the enjoyment of rehearsals to be central to the experience of the choir.

Cantóirí rehearses every Monday night from 7.45pm to 10.00pm, with the exception of Public Holidays. The rehearsal calendar is:

- **Winter Term** : Second Monday of September to December.
- **Spring Term** : January to Easter.
- **Summer Term** : Easter to end of June.

The rehearsal venue is agreed by the choir membership, at the recommendation of the committee.

Sectional practices may be undertaken during rehearsal time, however such practice should be kept to a minimum.

An additional full rehearsal is convened one week before the annual end-of-year performance.

Sectional practices that are additional to standard rehearsals may be convened with the agreement of the choir members and the Musical Director.

The learning of musical and lyrical elements should occur together from the outset.

On the day of a performance rehearsal shall amount to a warm up and run-through only.

Line tapes may be used to assist the learning of music and lyrics.

While it is the responsibility of all choir members to attend rehearsal, no penalties are made for late attendance or missed rehearsal.

Recycled repertoire shall be practiced for the assistance of new members. New members who are not familiar with recycled repertoire shall be equipped with line tapes and music to assist learning.

5 Membership

Cantóirí is composed of not more than 35 members. The combination of parts is at the discretion of the Musical Director.

Members of Cantóirí are those who pass an audition and pay the appropriate subscription fee, per term.

Audition technique is at the discretion of the Musical Director. However, the audition structure should reflect the rehearsal techniques of the choir. The ability to read music is not a requirement for membership.

Auditions are carried out on an as-needed basis. The selection of members is the responsibility of the Musical Director.

At the discretion of the Musical Director, new members taken on during the summer term may or may not perform at the end of year performance.

Members of Cantóirí have the following responsibilities:

- Pay term fee on time.
- Attend all rehearsals.
- Be on time for all rehearsals.
- Learn the repertoire to performance standard.

Members who do not fulfil all or some of their obligations may be asked by the committee to reconsider their membership.

6 Organisation

6.1 Committee

Cantóirí is managed on behalf of the members by a committee. The committee is elected by consensus at an Annual General Meeting. The committee is composed of :

- Chairperson. To direct general activity and liaise with Musical Director.
- Secretary. To deal with correspondence.
- Treasurer. To manage finances.
- Entertainment Co-ordinator. To direct social activity.
- Member without portfolio. To assist the work of the committee.

The committee hold office for one year beginning not more than 4 rehearsals into the Winter term.

An Archivist/Librarian is also appointed. The responsibilities of this person are to maintain a library of past repertoire. This person is not a committee member.

The Musical Director is not a committee member but may be invited to attend committee meetings as required.

Sub-committees may be convened at any time at the recommendation of the committee.

6.2 Musical Director

A Musical Director is appointed by the committee.

The responsibilities of the Musical Director are:

- Rehearse the choir.

- Direct the choir at performances.
- Audition new choir members.
- Select a repertoire.

The Musical Director is required to attend each scheduled rehearsal and performance to be decided as the year progresses. In the event of unavailability a suitable replacement must be recommended to the satisfaction of the committee.

The term of Musical Director is renewable annually, though may be set at a longer term following a one year probation.

A formal review shall take place with the Musical Director annually at the end of the Summer term.

No formal arrangements for assistant Musical Director are made.

6.3 Annual General Meeting

An Annual General Meeting will take place not later than four rehearsals into the Autumn Term every year. Two weeks notice will be given before an AGM.

An Extraordinary General Meeting may be convened at the recommendation of the committee. One week's notice is required for an EGM.

6.4 Financing

Cantóirí is financed from member subscriptions. Other sources of funds may be pursued as they arise.

A bank account is held in the name of the Treasurer.

Expenses incurred in the pursuit of choir activities may be paid upon the presentation of receipts.

The remuneration of the Musical Director may be negotiated between the committee and that person.

Payments to musicians (or others) may be made as required for performance or other choir activities.

A statement of finances is presented by the Treasurer at the AGM.

6.5 Guidelines Document

Formal amendments to this document may be presented at the AGM.

Exceptions to the terms of this document may occur with the agreement of the committee.