

London Philharmonic Choir Auditions

The London Philharmonic Choir (LPC) is one of the top symphony choruses in the country and seeks to recruit singers of the highest standard to perform a wide-ranging repertoire alongside the London Philharmonic Orchestra and other major orchestras, both at home and abroad. Entry to the choir is by means of an audition and singers are re-auditioned at three or one-yearly intervals, depending on the outcome of the audition. Re-auditions are carried out in the same way as initial auditions. Those who are asked to re-audition after one year are given helpful advice about areas needing attention and this is followed up at the next audition.

The audition consists of three main elements:

- **Vocal quality and agility** - The audition begins with warm-up phrases (triads, arpeggios, scale passages). This determines the singer's ability to sing in tune and demonstrates the quality of tone.
- **Aural perception** - A few short phrases are given for repetition and you are asked to sing individual notes from a three-note chord. The ability to reproduce accurately phrases with awkward intervals is required.
- **Sight-reading** - A short anthem (in English or Latin) is presented for sight-reading. The anthem is in a straight-forward, sixteenth century polyphonic style. The singer is expected to sing the appropriate line while the other parts are played on the piano. Confidence and clear musical understanding is needed rather than perfection.

Preparing for Your Audition

You need to prepare for your audition both mentally and physically. Please arrive for auditions when you are in good health and well prepared. Auditioning when you are not in good health does not allow you to perform to your best ability, and if you are feeling under the weather you should postpone a planned audition until you are feeling better. There are some additional things that you can do in preparation for your audition. For example, it is always extremely helpful to take singing lessons, even if time constraints or other resources prevent you from taking regular lessons, a few before an audition often pays dividends. If that is not possible, ask someone knowledgeable, perhaps a friend, to listen to you singing and ask for critical comment. You may like to try and work through an 'improve your sight-reading' book. If you have little previous singing experience, you may also like to consider gaining some experience singing in a smaller choir before applying for an LPC audition.

The London Philharmonic Choir has the privilege of working with some of the world's leading musicians and I make no apology for demanding high standards from the choir which aims to be a worthy partner in performing at the highest level.

Neville Creed
Artistic Director
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