

London Philharmonic Choir

Preparing for Auditions

The London Philharmonic Choir (LPC) is one of the UK's foremost symphonic choirs, celebrated for its artistic excellence. The LPC seeks to recruit singers of the highest standard to perform a wide-ranging repertoire alongside the London Philharmonic Orchestra and other major ensembles, both at home and abroad. Entry to the choir is by 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 four 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, demonstrates quality of tone and shows the voice's range.
- **Prepared excerpt performance** – The singer will have selected one short excerpt to prepare in advance. All excerpts are SATB and taken from the standard repertoire. This will be accompanied on the piano.
- **Sight-singing** – A passage from an SATB choral work will be presented for sight-singing. The singer will be required to sing their line, while the other parts/orchestral reduction are played on the piano. The work will be from the 18th, 19th or 20th century. Confidence and clear musical understanding are needed rather than perfection.
- **Aural perception** – A few short phrases will be given for repetition, and singers will be asked to sing individual notes from a three-note chord. The ability to reproduce accurately phrases with awkward intervals is required.

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 unwell you should postpone a planned audition until you are feeling better. It is always extremely helpful to take singing lessons in advance of an audition; even if regular lessons are not possible, a few sessions before an audition often pays dividends. Alternatively, ask someone knowledgeable, perhaps a friend, to listen to you singing and ask for critical comment, or record yourself and listen back. A range of materials is available to help improve sight-singing, and it can be beneficial to work through this kind of resource. If you have little previous choral 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; I make no apology for demanding high standards from the Choir as we aim to match the artistry, focus, dedication and professionalism of our partner orchestra.

Madeleine Venner
Chorus Director
July 2025