

SINGING
FOR THE
HEALTH
OF IT



COVID-19 Response Plan
Return to Rehearsal Safely

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Business Analysis - Data Analysis - Business Change - Risk Assessment*

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Introduction

The accompanying document “Living with COVID – Choir Rehearsal” assesses the risks inherent in Choir Rehearsal and describes required procedures and measures to be taken. All returning and potential members of SFTHOI should read that document first.

This document describes the specific implementation of those procedures and guidelines for Singing For The Health of It.

Before Rehearsal

All windows will be opened, in line with venue requirements.

At the entrance to the space, there will be a table with hand sanitizer and the attendance sign-in sheet. This sheet will list myself, and all expected singers in alphabetical order, with contact mobile phone numbers. There will be space at the end for any potential new members to add their name and number.

The floor plan for the rehearsal will be on the table. This plan will show the designated positions for each singer. Chairs will be set out for the singers in line with this plan.

Members' Preparation

Each member should provide and care for their own face shield/visor. Members may not attend rehearsal without this face shield/visor.

For rehearsal, every member should have their own copy of sheet music. It will no longer be possible to borrow a spare copy, or to share with another singer.

The rehearsal venue, St. Tiernan's Community School, require that a face-mask is worn at all times while on the premises. Everyone attending SFTHOI rehearsals should retain their face-mask at all times in the building, outside of the rehearsal space. It should be changed for the face shield/visor only when inside the rehearsal space.

The face shield should be washed/wiped before and after every use, and kept in a clean, sealable plastic bag. It is recommended that a separate face shield is kept solely for use when singing with SFTHOI.

Arriving for Rehearsal

As there can be no facility for waiting, singers should arrive at the rehearsal start time, and leave promptly at the end. They should queue and come into the room one by one, observing the usual face-mask and 2-metre distancing protocols at all times.

Hand sanitizer will be available just inside the rehearsal room door. Everybody coming into the rehearsal should sanitize their hands when they enter the room, *before touching anything else*, and again as they leave the rehearsal room.

Each singer should sign the attendance sheet, which will be just inside the door, *after* sanitizing their hands and before doing anything else.

Once signed in, each singer should move promptly to their designated place in the choir. Only then, should the face mask be exchanged for the face shield/visor.

During Rehearsal

The Conductor and all Singers must wear their face-shield/visor throughout the rehearsal, removing it only to replace their face mask prior to leaving the room.

Everyone should stay in their designated space and not move around. Any movement of the Conductor from her position will be brief, and remain at least 2 metres from the front row singers.

In general, the Conductor and all singers should avoid touching anyone else's music or other equipment/property.

Leaving Rehearsal

At the end of the Rehearsal, the Conductor and all singers should pack away their music and change their face shield/visor for their face mask, BEFORE leaving their designated position.

Wipes will be available, and it would be appreciated if each singer would wipe and put away their chair themselves.

They should then move promptly to leave the room, sanitizing their hands on the way out.

The attendance sheet will be photographed and emailed to the school, as required by the venue organizers.

The space will be left clean and tidy, with all chairs and table put away as required, and the windows closed.

Rehearsal Time

Previously, rehearsals started at 8pm and worked straight through without a break for at least an hour and a half, and sometimes the full 2 hours.

Our new rehearsal venue is available to us from 7:30pm to 9:30pm and must be vacated by 9:30pm. However, we will start rehearsal at 8pm for the first few weeks as we settle back into the routine. If it suits the majority of the choir, I may bring the start time forward to 7:30pm.

The guidelines recommend that breaks are taken, if the choir fills the rehearsal space, and particularly if the rehearsal involves the whole choir singing for most of the rehearsal. However, our new venue is an open space, with a capacity of 15 – 17 singers, while the returning choir is less than 10. So, for the first rehearsals at least, we will not need to take a break and will have the space to spread out a little if needed. This will be constantly reviewed and taken into account when planning rehearsals.

New members and the future

It is important to re-open the choir for the future, so that it can grow and expand as it did before the pandemic. Thus, we need to make provision for new singers coming along to try out at a rehearsal. New singers trying out must:

- Confirm in advance that s/he is virus-free
- Bring and wear a face-shield/visor
- Follow all the procedures above

Payment of Fees

Previously, most members paid in cash or cheque at rehearsal, although some had started to pay by bank transfer. Cash/cheque payment will continue.

Payment can now also be made by bank transfer or via PayPal – details on request - and will be receipted by email or text.