

MKC Voice Appraisals 2023

INTRODUCTION

We are now finally able to confirm how the long-awaited voice appraisal process will work. Most importantly, members should not be concerned about the process; as we've said before, this is not a re-audition, and no-one will be asked to leave the choir.

The process is primarily a mechanism through which I can better understand the voices within the choir and hear the timbre and character of each individual voice. It is a valuable opportunity to check that you are singing the most comfortable and appropriate voice part, as voices can (and do) change over time. It's also a chance for Alex and me to gain further information about each section should we need to consider additional splits in future repertoire, e.g. three soprano parts, etc.

VENUE

Ros and David Talks have very kindly agreed to host us. There will be a waiting space indoors.

Address: 144 Lynmouth Crescent, Furzton MK4 1LQ.

What 3 Words *///rather.huts.intensely*

Parking: There should be space to park on the paving between the road and the pavement, in front of the drive. Mark's orange mini will be on the drive as a point of reference!

BOOKING YOUR SLOT

You will already know we are aiming to hear as many people as possible on Thursday 5 and Friday 6 October. We already know that some members are not available at those times. Don't worry, we aim to catch up with one or two slots available after normal Tuesday rehearsals until we manage to see everybody.

If you CAN attend on 5/6 October then please click [here](#):

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/13o6M1GjelyunsooE_e22sl5tE3rBtXLSj1CPdIFVi-M/edit?usp=sharing and fill in your name in a convenient and available slot. Each appraisal will last no more than 12 minutes, hence the odd timings.

WHAT IT WILL INVOLVE

Please come warmed up; a few 'sirening' exercises in the car should suffice. The process will consist of three parts.

PART A

We'll start by exploring your range with exercises designed to find where it is comfortable for you to sing, and to allow us to hear the different colours throughout the entire range of your voice.

PART B

Next, we'll do some ensemble singing. This will be your choice of either Mozart's *Ave Verum* or Bruckner's *Locus Iste* which we will have practised in rehearsals. Singing your normal voice part Alex and I, together with Olivia/Lily (our former conducting fellows) will complete the quartet. There will be no piano accompaniment for this. Depending on timings we or may not be able to sing all of it.

PART C

Finally we'll ask you sing the top, bottom, or middle note of a series of chords. Don't worry if you can't hear it the first time; we'll help you!

AFTERWARDS

We'll provide feedback over the following week or so which will contain some general helpful pointers, and more specific thoughts on your voice and which voice part is most comfortable for you. This might well be the voice part you currently sing.

We are fully aware that this might feel like a very daunting process, but remember, we're very much on your side. Thank you in advance for engaging with a process that will be incredibly useful for the future musical planning of Chorale.