



Welcome to Note-Orious, East Dulwich's own community choir! We are so pleased you have joined and hope you will enjoy singing with us as well as making new friends.

Our primary purpose is to provide a weekly opportunity for local people to forget the tensions of the daily grind, open their mouths, expand their lungs and make a wonderful noise. No audition required, just let go and enjoy yourself.

- **How Note-Orious began**

"For some time, I've been dreaming of setting up a funky choir in Dulwich," began a message posted by Vicky Goode on the East Dulwich Forum on 22nd July 2008. "Would anyone be interested in joining?"

The answer was a resounding yes!!

Almost fifteen years later Vicky's vision of a fun, friendly community choir whose repertoire walks a fine line between cool and kitsch is thriving. For many years we rehearsed on Monday nights at The East Dulwich Tavern, but we now rehearse in the main clubhouse of Dulwich Hamlet FC. We perform regularly at local festivals and functions. The choir is not-for-profit, and we are registered as a charity. There is also a thriving social scene, with regular post-rehearsal drinks and occasional choir social events.

- **How the choir works**

Note-Orious rehearsals are relaxed and fun, but at the same time, focused on improving individual singing technique and group performance. Our Musical Director, Laurel, leads the choir through a warm-up, before working on several numbers in our repertoire, new and old.

An important principle of the choir is that you don't have to be able to read music. Each song in the Note-Orious repertoire has been suggested by a member of the choir, and we have covered artists such as Dolly Parton, The Smiths, The Beatles, Lorde, David Bowie, The Kinks, Rag'n'Bone Man, Adele, and The Beach Boys.

Most songs are performed in four-part harmony – lower (bass) and higher (tenor) male voices, and lower (alto) and higher (soprano) female voices – so you should be able to find a place to fit in.

We rehearse for two hours a week with a 10-minute break, and often finish practice with a drink or two in the bar in the clubhouse. We don't rehearse all year round. We follow school terms and, therefore, there are breaks at Christmas, Easter and over the summer.

At the beginning of each term, you will be notified which songs we will be learning that term. Music will be uploaded onto our website for you to download & then print if required. In addition to learning new songs, we may re-visit songs we have already learnt that remain in the repertoire. You

will be told in advance if we intend to perform these songs in concert, and they will be re-rehearsed. The audio teaching tracks on the website should help you to learn them.

We keep in regular touch using a Signal Group which you will be added to (details below)

- **Some requests:**

- Rehearsals start at **8pm**; please aim to be at the clubhouse at Dulwich Hamlet FC by 7.50pm so we can put out the chairs and make a prompt start.
- Our Constitution includes a requirement to attend a minimum of 50% of rehearsals, but of course we want to see you every week because the more the merrier! That said we understand that life happens and if something comes up making it hard for you to attend 50% of rehearsals, please contact the Membership Secretary or any other committee member to discuss.
- Please use a tablet / 'phone or acquire a **black ring binder folder** to keep your music in and to use for performances. You will be able to download to your tablet or print copies of the music from the members' section of the website.
- Please bring a **pencil** to make notes on your music, if you are paper-based.
- Please don't talk when other sections of the choir are learning their part.
- Please check in on the **register** every time you attend and if you are not able to attend, please let us know on the signal group if you can.
- And finally...we hope you really **enjoy** being part of the choir!

- **HOW TO JOIN**

You will need to set up a **standing order** into our account to cover your choir subscription of £25 a month. This is approximately £8 a rehearsal spread out over the whole year.

If you join **BEFORE the 15th of any month**, tell your bank to pay a one-off £25 straight away, then a regular £25 starting the 5th of the next month.

If you join **AFTER the 15th**, you should just set up a standing order of £25 for the 5th of every month.

- **Bank details:**

Note-Orious Dulwich Choir

Account no. 51509810

Sort Code 40-02-32

Please **add your name as the reference** so we know who the money is from.

When you've done that email the general Note-Orious address to let us know that the standing order is in place. We will then send you **the password** for the members' section of the website (www.note-orious.co.uk). Here you can log in to the **members' section** and print out most of our sheet music and listen to or download all our teaching tracks.

We also have a **Signal group chat**. (Signal is similar to WhatsApp). If you haven't already done so, you will need to download the Signal app and let us have **your mobile number** so that we can add you to the group chat.

We occasionally take photos and videos to promote choir performances on social media. **As a member of the choir, you provide your consent to being included in photos and videos.** Please speak to a member of the Committee if you do not wish to consent to this.

- **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

Q: What is my subscription fee used for?

A: The choir's subs primarily pay for the music director's and accompanist's fees, sheet music and any hiring of spaces to rehearse or perform. The choir has a treasurer who files a financial report each year at the AGM. You can ask to see this if you want to see a further breakdown.

Q: How is the choir's repertoire decided?

A: Every piece the choir sings has been suggested by one or more of our members. Every term the Song Selection Sub Committee will sit down with all the song suggestions to look through them. Songs are selected so that we have a balance of classic pop and more current music, as well as being suitable for a group of mixed voices. A balance also needs to be struck between using pieces that have 4-part harmony sheet music already and occasionally arranging our own harmonies. Email your suggestions to info@note-orious.co.uk

Q: How can I join the committee?

A: The committee is elected each year at the AGM, usually in late January or early February. You will have a chance to stand for any of the roles (chairperson, Performance Manager, Music Manager & Social Secretary, Treasurer, Communications Manager and Membership Secretary) at the next AGM. The committee welcomes new joiners, so if you're interested in finding out more about what these roles entail please talk to an existing committee member. Occasionally, the committee will ask for volunteers from the choir to help with specific tasks.

Q: How often do I need to attend?

A: The Choir constitution requires you to attend a minimum 50% of rehearsals in a term. We also like you to attend at least the last two rehearsals before a public performance. If you think you might fall short of the 50% attendance, please contact the Membership Secretary or any other committee member to discuss your situation. It may be possible to arrange a sabbatical.

Q: Where can I get more information about the Choir?

A: Our **website** www.note-orious.co.uk has more information and more FAQs for members.

NB: There is no way to navigate from the public area of the site to the members' area. You need to use the password that you will be supplied with once you set up your subscription standing order.

We run a **YouTube Channel** with videos of our performances called Note-Orious Choir

<http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCN9Cs-QXr-xuvQGOHRB3xgw>

and you can follow us on **Instagram** @noteoriouschoir

General Note-Orious Email: info@note-orious.co.uk

NOTE-ORIOUS COMMITTEE

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|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| • Chairperson | Susan Kane |
| • Treasurer | Naomi Ibbotson |
| • Communications Manager | Katrina Stamp |
| • Performance Manager | Becca Linssen |
| • Music Manager and Social Secretary | Mike Usiskin |
| • Membership Secretary | Graham Smith |

We really hope you will enjoy being part of the choir.

Welcome!!