



RSNO Junior Chorus

The RSNO Junior Chorus offers youngsters from age 7 onwards the opportunity to sing weekly with a highly trained group, giving concerts, making recordings, and socially enjoying the company of other singers. The Choir is run by the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, Scotland's national and international symphony orchestra. This affords members the unique opportunity to perform regularly with the orchestra.

Music in general, and singing in particular, is a very important part of a child's education the RSNO Junior Chorus gives your child a chance to sing at a high level whilst combining singing with games and musicianship training that is second to none.

We recruit new members from Primary 3. To have the opportunity to be offered a place in the RSNO Junior Chorus, children in 20 schools are offered workshops. Schools are contacted in February and workshops are set up for the summer term, after Easter.

The workshops held to select the children are designed to be fun and are very informal. The children are involved in singing games which enable the staff to identify those who have an ability to sing clearly and in tune. The workshops last for approximately 30 minutes.

After the workshop in the school a list of names and a letter is passed to the school, who pass it in turn to the selected candidates. Thereafter a **second audition** takes place in the RSNO Centre with all Junior Chorus staff present.

Aims of the Choir

The aims of the choir are to encourage singing to the best of the singers' ability; to learn to read music, and to develop and train the voice. The emphasis is ultimately on singing for fun, and on the establishment of good pitching and a good ear using the Kodály Method - a plan for young singers developed in Hungary by the composer and teacher Zoltán Kodály. Sessions in small groups working on pitching and rhythm games are followed by a full singing session. Principles of sol-fa and reading of notation are introduced.

Recruitment

Members are recruited from Primary 3 in schools across Glasgow and the local areas in an informal workshop audition. Approximately 100 children will be offered a place in the Training Choir from the total number tested.

Rehearsals

Rehearsals for all the Choirs, Training Choir, Probationary Choir 1, Probationary Choir 2, Junior Chorus and Changed Voices are all on a Monday evening at different times.

Training Choir 5.25pm – 6.35pm, Probationary Choir 1 6.00pm – 7.15pm, Probationary Choir 2 5.00pm – 6.35pm and Junior Chorus and Changed Voices are 6.40pm – 9.00pm

Structure

The choir is divided into four groupings. The first year's intake is called the **Training Choir**. Children are in this choir for one year and usually advance to the next group automatically. Informal presentations are given to parents and friends throughout the year.

The next stage choir is the **Probationary Choir**. Members are in this choir for two years and continue the singing and musicianship training. Concerts are given with the RSNO where appropriate. Children advance to the Junior Chorus after the second year of the Probationary Choir, though in exceptional circumstances they may advance earlier.

The **Junior Chorus** is the largest part of the choir, numbering about 130 singers between the ages of 11 and 18. This is a highly accomplished choir singing in three parts. The combination of musicianship and vocal training means that the choir reads music well and makes a thrilling sound. They perform regularly with the RSNO.

Changed Voices. This group is for those boys whose voices have started to change or have changed. We have a dedicated team of teachers who help support healthy singing whilst the changed voices are developing. They perform with the RSNO and various venues around the city.

Concerts

The RSNO Junior Chorus, Probationary Choirs 1 and 2 and the Training Choir take part in concerts organised by the Royal Scottish National Orchestra. Whilst the number of concerts can vary from year to year, there are always Christmas concerts. In addition all the choirs perform separately in concerts, presentations, competition festivals and recordings.

Away Weekends

During the 4th year of membership there is a residential away weekend (usually September) where intensive rehearsal and training can be put alongside important social and recreational aspects. This has proved invaluable and has allowed many fine friendships and high-quality music making to develop.

Award Scheme

The RSNO Junior Chorus has developed a unique award scheme to chart the progress of the members of the choir and give them goals to work towards. The award scheme is divided into Bronze, Silver and Gold. Bronze is usually tested after two years of work, with Silver and Gold coming on stream as the singers' progress further through the programme. Children will be tested informally on things like pitching, sound production, solo singing and simple theory. Rehearsal and concert attendance and behaviour etc will also be taken into account.

The cost for the season is £210, bursaries will be made available for those who cannot afford the full payment.