



www.choraleinternationalealbera.com

This is who we are

- Members come from different countries: France, Norway, Sweden, England, Ireland, Germany, Belgium... and we welcome everyone who wants to join the choir, no matter singing experience.
- We are more than 50 members, approximately 30 singers for each concert.
- The choir's headquarters are in Montesquieu des Albères.
- We sing in English and in French.

- President: **David Ingram** (Board- & Committee member)
- Music Director: **Björn Hedström** (Committee member)
(a former professional Swedish singer and choir director who lives in Sorède. Björn founded and directed the largest gospel choir in Gothenburg, Sweden, with more than 500 singers.)
- Webmaster: **Gilly Jones-Farrow** (Committee member)
- Secretary: **Muriel Duret Laude** (Board- & Committee member)
- Treasurer: **André Laude** (Board- & Committee member)
- Choir assistant: **Valerie Ingram** (Committee member)
- Promotion: **Diana Eastaff**
- Concert coordinator: **Barbara Challinor** (Committee member)
- Sound/Light : **Steve Meredith** (Committee member)

This is why we sing

Singing makes you happy, even if there are reasons for you not to be.

We want to share the joy that singing brings with others.

Seeing the expressionless faces of some people in an audience change into smiling faces during a concert is the most wonderful experience.

That's why we put a lot of effort into smiling and using our bodies to express energy and joy. Our goal is to make our audience smile and dance.

Singing together in a choir like ours makes you feel included and like part of a family.

Performing in front of an audience after rehearsing a long time together gives you self-confidence and makes you proud.

We want to be a growing choir with people of all ages and nationalities.

This is how we work

- All rehearsals are in English, so it would help if you understood at least some English. For those who have difficulties understanding, we offer "mentors" who will sit beside you and explain when needed.
- The website is the hub in our wheel.
- On the website you will find lyrics, score, translations, and rehearsal files so that you can prepare before rehearsals.
- After every rehearsal we offer drinks and cake for a small cost.
- On the website you will find all information that is needed relating to our concerts.
- Your part coordinator is the one you correspond with concerning rehearsals and concerts.

This is when we work

- We rehearse 12 to 15 Saturdays between 2.30 PM and 4.30 PM every season (summer and Christmas).
For the summer season, we begin practising in the beginning of March, and for the Christmas season we begin in the beginning of September.
- Our Christmas repertoire can be used for concerts only in December, but our summer repertoire can be used from June to October.

This is what we expect

... from our members:

- Always to keep up to date with all the information on our website.
- To attend at least 75% of all our rehearsals since that's the only way to develop as a choir, and to be able to perform with self-confidence.
- To prepare before every rehearsal by listening to the current original versions of the songs and to the rehearsal file that belongs to each song (different rehearsal files for the different parts).
- To print and bring lyrics (and, if wanted,) score to rehearsals.
- Always bring a pencil to rehearsals and make notes to remember what is discussed.
- Try to do your best to learn the songs by heart to be able to communicate with the audience when it's time for concerts.
- We expect all members to lend a helping hand with rehearsals and concerts.

This is what we offer

- Our wish is to sing at festivals, street entertainment, parks, gardens, night markets etc...
- Duration of a concert: 30 min to 1 hour and 15 min depending on your needs.
- Our repertoire consists of English and French songs, mostly up-tempo, catchy, well-known songs. We even have some gospel songs on our repertoire.
For the Christmas concerts all our songs are suitable in church.
- We perform with music back tracks, and we bring our own sound equipment, as well as stage lighting. If requested, we offer a PowerPoint presentation with lyrics and images along with the concert if there is a projector and a screen available.

This is what we need

... to be able to give a concert:

- Indoor or outdoor location, a stage or steps on 2 or 3 levels (with stairs if high).
- An electrical connection.
- Somewhere close to the stage, a lockable room where we can store our stuff and where the choir can warm up their voices.
- A toilet.
- Help with publicity. We design the original for posters, flyers or online advertising including your logotype, but we need your help with printing.