

Songbirds Bulletin - April 2021

Hi everyone

Here's hoping you all enjoyed your Easter break and were able to take advantage of the easing of lockdown regulations despite the weather being pretty inhospitable at times.

We have **six zoom sessions** planned, fortnightly up to the end of June and these are the songs we would like to focus on during those sessions:

1. Mary Poppins (selection)
2. *"Here Comes the Sun"*
3. *"Can You Feel the Love Tonight"*
4. *"The Colours Of My Life"* (in unison)
5. Carole King (selection)
6. Leading Ladies (*"The Sound of Music"* and *"Popular"*)
7. *"Lean On Me"*

Please can you let Mandy know if you do not have the words (either electronically or as sheet music) for any of the songs listed above. Even if you may have already told her - please email her again just to be sure!!!

Timing of all six zoom sessions:

- 6:45 - 7:10 Meet Up and Warm up
- 7:10 - 7:45 Break-out Rooms:
Sectional rehearsal of some of the 6 listed songs -
as decided by Faye and Jane

7:45 - 8:00 All singing together

Here is the link for this Thursday (April 15th) evening's zoom session:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2102522020?pwd=TCsvY08wVEpNL2hOQWF0a1JqU0lnZz09>

Pre-Session Warm-up

So as to have maximum time in break-out rooms during our sessions over the next three months the committee is suggesting that members take some time (about 10-15 minutes) before the zoom session starts to begin the warm up process.

Here is a YouTube link to a warm up session run by Gareth Malone during the first lockdown - it includes loosening up exercises, jaw and mouth movement, scales and a short (well-known) song. The whole thing is more that 30 minutes long but the warm up is only 8 minutes (starting at 3 minutes 15 seconds and finishing at around 11 minutes 36 seconds).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vEQAPYpvKXw>

Faye will also put us through our warm up paces but we our voices will benefit greatly from that extra time spent 'pre-warming' them and we will be ready that much more quickly for break-out rooms and practising our parts. The more we are able to learn over the next few sessions the better, as this should help us when we come back together for live rehearsals - hopefully in the autumn.

Songbirds AGM - July

You will remember that we deferred our AGM last year because of COVID-19 but the committee would like to suggest that we have a **zoom AGM on Thursday July 15th** in readiness for restarting our rehearsals at the Methodist Church - some committee members will be stepping down and so you are asked to consider joining the committee and supporting Songbirds to continue to develop. In the next Newsletter there will be more detail about committee roles and the nominations process.

Summer Outdoor Event - July

The committee is hoping to have an event in July where we can come together and sing outdoors (perhaps in a garden) the songs we've been learning on zoom and do some fundraising for our charity. This could be a daytime or evening event and weekday or weekend. Please let the committee know your thoughts about preferred time of day and preferred days of the week. It would be a lovely opportunity to come together informally, run through our current repertoire, raise some money for Spectrum and catch up with people we may not have seen 'in the flesh' for ages!

Return to the Methodist Church - August?

Although nothing is absolutely certain, we hope that Songbirds can return to the Methodist Church on Thursday August 12th. Whether we will have to put special arrangements in place is not yet clear, guidance on this is not yet available. The Methodist Church and Songbirds Choir both have thorough risk assessments in place and so we can only wait for more information which may not come until nearer the time.