

Dear all,

I've asked Susannah to forward this schedule to everyone as soon as possible via email and also by placing it on the Members page of our website. It's so that we can all prepare each rehearsal by listening to each piece while following your own part in the score in advance. It's "familiarisation" by the way, not a strict homework!

Firstly, it is most important to get this important logistical point across right from the start:

I believe that singing together in a choir is a collective and cooperative activity, where we're all subconsciously helping and assisting one another to learn our music together. My aim here is to facilitate learning all new music, so that we can all enjoy singing each new piece together as quickly as possible. Note-bashing parts in isolation is not my style and in my opinion is not productive!

Once this is achieved, we'll then be able to identify and really focus on the more difficult sections, then the detail and making our performance of each piece as excellent and impressive as possible, focussing on perfecting and unifying our pronunciation & diction, and then focusing on the musical articulation, phrasing, dynamic details and specific markings given by the composer in each score.

Rehearsal 1 A Festival Chime – Holst; The Marksmen - Elgar (our hardest piece!!!)

(September 3rd)

Give Unto The Lord - Elgar

Ring Out Wild Bells - Fletcher

Rehearsal 2

(September 10th)

Lord who hast made us (Psalm48) – Holst

Let All Mortal Flesh AND Turn Back O Man (3 Festival choruses) - Holst

The Dance - Elgar (No.1 "From the Bavarian Highlands")

False Love - Elgar (No.2 "From the Bavarian Highlands")

Lullaby - Elgar (No.3 "From the Bavarian Highlands") + The Marksmen

Rehearsal 3

(September 17th)

Aspiration - Elgar (No.4 "From the Bavarian Highlands")

On the Alm - Elgar (No.5 "From the Bavarian Highlands")

The Marksmen - Elgar (No.6 "From the Bavarian Highlands")

Consolidate & sing through the pieces sung on Sept 3rd & 10th.

Rehearsal 4

(September 24th)

Consolidate & sing through the pieces sung on Sept 3rd 10th & 17th.

** This is your chance to ask to go over bits you find hard – so put your hand up!**

Rehearsal 5

(October 1st)

The Dance - Elgar (No.1 "From the Bavarian Highlands")

False Love - Elgar (No.2 "From the Bavarian Highlands")

Lullaby - Elgar (No.3 "From the Bavarian Highlands") + The Marksmen

** This is your chance to ask to go over bits you find hard – so put your hand up!...**

Sing through "Give Unto the Lord" (if time allows)

Rehearsal 6

(October 8th)

Aspiration - Elgar (No.4 "From the Bavarian Highlands")

On the Alm - Elgar (No.5 "From the Bavarian Highlands")

The Marksmen - Elgar (No.6 "From the Bavarian Highlands")

** This is your chance to ask to go over bits you find hard – so put your hand up!...**

Sing through "Ring Out Wild Bells" (if time allows)

Rehearsal 7

(October 15th)

A Christmas Greeting - Elgar

Christmas Day - Holst

Rehearsal 8

(October 22nd) Sing through and perform all 7x works as best we can!

There will be times when you may feel rushed and even a little perplexed but do not fear; there is no point in singing some bars mechanically & perfectly in Sept/Oct. It's more important to go with the flow and enjoy singing the music and to especially enjoy your mistakes, because its only by getting it wrong that we eventually get it **oh so right!**

Music learning teaches and helps us to persevere, to be patient, to love it and to never give up!

By doing all the above, we'll then be able to work out where the hardest bits are to focus on in Nov.

Very best wishes,

Leon.