



GALS Bylaws

Purpose

These Bylaws are issued to provide guidance to GALS members on the standards required for participation as a GALS member. These Bylaws should be read in conjunction with the Rules.

Introduction

GALS includes people with a wide range of musical abilities from skilled artisans to enthusiastic amateurs, some of whom cannot read music. Whilst the choir does not audition its members, we do hold "skills audits" to gauge musical ability. We also require that you are able to sing in tune.

If you need clarification on any item in these Bylaws talk to your Section Leader.

Membership

1. New members are required to fill out the GALS membership form provided by the Membership Secretary.
2. Any personal information provided by choir members is used for membership purposes only. According to the Privacy Act, GALS is legally bound to request permission for details to be used. Your consent for GALS to store and circulate your information will be requested annually on the membership form. It is normal policy within GALS to use names on internal member contact lists, in the quarterly newsletter, any publicity material and in concert programmes. Photographs may also be displayed on the web page and in publicity material. If you do not wish your name or photograph to be used in this way, please withhold your consent on the membership form.
3. Members are required to advise the Membership Secretary of changes to their contact information promptly and to update details annually, via the membership form, when annual subscriptions are renewed.

Performance

4. Members are required to have suitable clothing in order to participate in GALS performances – black dress trousers (and black belt), black and white long-sleeved collared shirts, black shoes and socks. Other performance wear, including waistcoats or scarves will be provided by GALS.
5. The Performance Manager, Marketing Manager and Choral Director will determine the wardrobe for each performance.
6. GALS music and folders should be treated with care and respect. Music is to be marked with a soft black pencil only no harder than 2B. No music / music folders will be given to members who have not paid the music bond. This music bond is refundable upon the return of the music along with any other GALS property held by that member.
7. All music belonging to GALS must be returned within one month of the end of a GALS concert. Failure to do so within that period will result in forfeiture of the member's music bond. A new bond will be required before further music is issued, regardless of whether or not the music is subsequently returned.

Rehearsal

8. Members are expected to attend regular GALS rehearsals. We rehearse weekly on Tuesdays from 6.30pm to 9.00pm, There are additional Choir Sectionals and Saturday rehearsals as required and an annual Camp. All rehearsals, except Sectionals, count towards overall attendance.
9. Members are required to advise the Membership Secretary as soon as possible regarding non-attendance at rehearsal. Holidays or other anticipated absences should be advised well in advance.
10. The Choral Director has sole discretion in determining if a member is adequately prepared to participate in any performance or event. To participate in GALS concerts members are expected to achieve an attendance of 75% or more rehearsals including all mandatory rehearsals. For clarity mandatory rehearsals shall include all technical and dress rehearsals and any other rehearsal as reasonably advised in advance at the discretion of the Choral Director. Members should note that attendance alone is not a guarantee of concert preparedness.
11. GALS Camp, held annually over one weekend from Friday evening to Sunday afternoon, is an integral part of GALS. Attendance is extremely desirable for all members. Camp rehearsals are included in the attendance requirement and equates to 5 rehearsal blocks.

Marketing

14. All GALS members are expected to assist in the marketing and promotion of GALS performances and events.

Finance

15. GALS members are expected to pay membership subscriptions and other payments into the GALS bank account by electronic transfer.

Executive Committee

16. The Executive Committee, comprising GALS members elected at the Annual General Meeting, manages the effective running of the choir on behalf of all GALS members. The Executive Committee meets monthly. We welcome your input and feedback.
17. The Executive Committee is accountable to ensure that members act in accordance with the Rules and Bylaws.

Section Leader

18. To facilitate the effective administration of the choir the Executive Committee will appoint Section Leaders and will determine their duties from time to time.

Disputes Process

19. GALS believes in resolving disputes simply and by following this process. In the first instance, talk to the person with whom you have the concern. If not resolved or this is not possible, talk to your Section Leader about the issue and your proposals, or to an Executive Committee member and seek their support to resolve the issue. If still unresolved put your complaint in writing, including the steps that you have already taken to resolve the issue, and forward it to the Executive Committee Chairperson for action. You may attend the GALS Executive Committee meeting to speak to your issue.

Review

20. The Bylaws will be reviewed every two years.

Responsibility

21. The Executive Committee is responsible for this review and update of these Bylaws.

Revised September 2013