

Headington Singers Rehearsals – Autumn 2021

National and Local Situation – August 2021

The government has removed most legal restrictions and many people have been vaccinated, but it still possible to catch and spread COVID-19, even if you are fully vaccinated. The country remains in a phase of continued caution as we learn to live with the virus, this risk assessment will be reviewed regularly and in the event of any changes to government policy.

COVID-19 spreads from person to person through small droplets, aerosols and through direct contact. Singing, shouting and physical activity increase the risk of transmission through small droplets and aerosols. When singing takes place, steps should be taken to reduce the risk of transmission, including limiting the number of people participating as far as possible. The cumulative effect of aerosol transmission means the more people involved, the higher the risk of transmission.

Risk Assessment

Event	Weekly Choir Rehearsals, from September 7 th , 2021, in All Saints Church, Lime Walk, Headington	Date of Assessment	29 th May 2021 – updated 13 th July 2021 and 14 th August 2021
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Hazard/risk	Who might be harmed and how?	Current steps to reduce risk	Further action to mitigate risk	By Whom	Residual risk level
Transmission of virus through aerosols, droplets and surfaces and close personal contact/singing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choir members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Face coverings Social distancing Vaccination programme Use of a church for rehearsals, providing good ventilation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alternate seats to be left vacant to ensure some distancing (including when not singing) Limit numbers of singers at any 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Angela COVID committee for each event 	Moderate/Low

			<p>session to allow for adequate spacing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ask attendees to enter the church one at a time to avoid overcrowding.• Reduce length of rehearsals, with a short break for notices to reduce duration of social contact.• Singers to stand side by side, facing the conductor.• It is recommended that attendees do a lateral flow test prior to each rehearsal, particularly if not doubly vaccinated and not attend in the event of a positive result. In the event of a		
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			<p>positive test guidance on isolation and follow up PCR test should be adhered to.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Participants should consider transport arrangements to get to the church, avoiding car sharing with those they do not live with where possible.• Face coverings are recommended when moving around the church, these may be removed when singing.• Open both church doors and functioning windows during rehearsal. Advise participants to		
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			<p>dress warmly in cooler weather.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask attendees not to not congregate together in the church and follow the seating plan as indicated by the stewards. • Send a written summary of mitigations to all participants in advance, by email. Paper copies to be available at the entrance. 		
Member develops symptoms of COVID	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choir members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public information about COVID signs and Symptoms, testing and isolation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask choir members not to attend if they feel unwell or receive a positive Lateral Flow Test result. • Ensure contact details are collected for all participants, in case an attendee develops 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Angela/Richard • Committee • Participants • Richard 	Low

			<p>symptoms after the event.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify contact person for participants to contact in the event of developing symptoms after the event. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Richard 	
Transmission of virus through sharing of items/high touch surfaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Singers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular hand hygiene. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invite members to sanitise hands prior to entering the church. High touch surfaces to be cleaned after the rehearsal. Clean piano keyboard after use Discourage use of toilet. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All attendees committee Maureen 	Low
Unawareness of control measures among attendees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Singers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National communications regarding virus spread and current restrictions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set out expected behaviours and guidelines in writing in advance of the event. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Angela/Richard Committee 	Low

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remind singers on the day of request for social distancing, face coverings, hand hygiene etc 		
Reputation in the event of noncompliance with National rules or subsequent infection outbreak	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Headington Singers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National communications regarding new tier system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organisers to agree the expected behaviours for the event. Risk assessment to be shared with all participants. Risk assessment to be shared with church. Written communication to be sent to all participants in advance setting out agreed behaviours, stating expectation that these will be followed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committee/Richard Angela 	Low

Individual risk profile	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choir members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National and local communications regarding personal risk profile e.g. age, existing medical conditions etc 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk assessment circulated in advance so attendees can decide about their personal risk if they participate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Angela/Richard 	Low
Need to adhere to new rules and guidelines as route map progresses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choir members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National and local communications Government guidelines for amateur singers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidelines to be studied to ensure plans comply 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Angela/Committee 	Low
Desire to socialise within group after long absence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choir members 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National and local communications about new regulations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Written communication with all participants to outline expected behaviours, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Richard 	Low

Angela Houlston updated 15/08/2021.