Purple Cats Community Choir: Criteria for Selection of Performance Requests

Purple Cats are an open-access community choir whose main purpose is to sing for enjoyment every week. However, we regularly get asked to give performances, and a good number of our members enjoy performing occasionally. Because we receive many more invitations than we are able to accept, we have developed this checklist of criteria that we apply in deciding which to accept. We hope this will be helpful to anyone thinking of inviting us to perform. It should prevent you wasting your time making an invitation that we've no chance of accepting, or help you understand why we've had to turn down your request.

# *General principles*

1. Purple Cats sing for pleasure, and are not primarily a performance choir. Because of this **we need to limit the number of performances we do** so that Tuesday evenings don’t become just performance rehearsals.
2. We are inclusive, and anyone who comes along on Tuesday evenings is welcome to sing at our performances, provided they can commit to attending the required number of rehearsals.
3. We reckon we are very good! We put a great deal of effort into preparing our performances. So we want to make sure that we are heard to our best advantage and by the maximum number of people.

# *Checklist of Criteria*

**Teacher Availability**

* Usually gigs will only take place if at least one of our teachers is available. (Other events which do not require a conductor such as flash-mobs, may be considered if an experienced choir member is prepared to lead).

**Nature of event**

* We aim to perform at high profile events that attract a large and diverse audience. This may include community events or one-off events which offer an opportunity to do something different. On this basis, requests for smaller events such as school fetes or similar performances will be declined.
* In general we won’t do overtly political (e.g., supporting political parties) or religious events (with the Christmas Carol Service at our home base of St Mary’s as an exception!). Although we may want to perform at events in support of causes which may be seen as political in the broader sense (e.g., Oxfam).

**Number and frequency**

* The choir will aim to limit its “main” performances to one for each of the autumn and summer terms. Additional performances can be accommodated if the set can be repeated or minimal preparation is required.

**Timescales**

* Preparation for events will usually require a minimum of 10 weeks from the start of a term to performance.
* We cannot normally perform in the first few weeks of term because of the amount of time it takes to prepare.
* In general, Cats will not do events outside of our term times; although this can be flexible if songs are already prepared.
* In combination, these factors make late June/July and late November/December our preferred dates.

**Suitability of venue**

* If indoors, we need somewhere with reasonable acoustics and enough space to accommodate us and our audience.
* If outdoors, we need a space where we will attract an audience, with not too much background noise and not competing with other performances. We will need some contingency to be under cover in case of bad weather.
* We need to know where we will be performing before we start our preparations, as this will influence our choice of material.