



*When you sing with a group of people, you learn how to subsume yourself into a group consciousness because a capella singing is all about the immersion of the self into the community. That's one of the great feelings – to stop being me for a little while and to become us. That way lies empathy, the great social virtue.”*

Brian Eno

## Step 1: Get help

You don't need to tackle it all yourself - find a group of like-minded individuals to help you out. A team approach will be more fun, effective and give you more time to enjoy taking part in the choir.

## Step 2: What type of choir?

Decide on the type of choir you want to create, it could be a Community Choir that's open to anybody or a choir only open to those invited or auditioned to join.

## Step 3: Set the aims and purpose of the choir

A clear purpose will help your choir flourish, so start off by defining this purpose and find a performance goal to aim for. This could be as simple as a small performance to friends and family or a performance at a local hospice or care home.

## Step 4: Where and When

Decide on a time and place to rehearse suitable for your group. If you are a community choir you may want to look at local churches and community halls. If it's a closed group maybe you could rehearse in someone's house.

## Step 5: Recruiting members

Get the word out there! Use word of mouth, local media, the internet and social media, create posters and flyers.

## Step 6: Who will lead your choir?

The choir leader will train and lead the group so that the choir can give its best performance. Speak to local arts organisations, music departments in schools, colleges or a local university - they may have teachers or music students looking for experience. Advertise in local press or arts websites such as:

Creative Scotland's opportunities website: <http://opportunities.creativescotland.com>

Arts Council England: <http://www.artsjobs.org.uk/>

Arts Council of Northern Ireland: <http://www.artscouncil-ni.org/news/job-opportunities>

Arts Council of Wales: <http://www.artswales.org.uk/arts-in-wales/arts-directory-search>

You could also try: [www.musicteachers.co.uk](http://www.musicteachers.co.uk)

Or do it yourself!



## Step 7: Administration of your choir

Get together a group of people with administrative skills; they can help with the organisation of rehearsals and performances.

## Step 8: Finances

Don't forget the costs involved in setting up and running a choir – hiring a venue, working with a professional choir leader and marketing materials such as posters and flyers.

You could ask for a donation or fee to participate in the choir, find sponsorship from a local company or apply for funding from trusts and foundations ([www.voluntaryarts.org](http://www.voluntaryarts.org)).

## Step 9. Rehearsals

You've got your venue, a regular time, a choir leader and recruited members - now it's time for the rehearsals.

Effective planning will help you get the most from your rehearsals. These are our top tips:



Outline what songs and sections you need to cover; this will help the group focus on what needs to be achieved.



Always use a warm up and consider different ways of learning – you could include physical movement and listening exercises.



Always start and finish with songs that the choir know; this will help keep up enthusiasm and confidence.



Build in some contingency time, so if there's an area that needs additional rehearsal it isn't rushed.



Record the rehearsals and keep a note of arrangements, material worked on and areas for improvement to help plan future sessions. You can also use the recordings to help choir members practise between rehearsals or if they have missed a session.

There are plenty of places to find sheet music such as libraries, online and music shops.

You need to be aware that music is subject to copyright law, which applies to all choirs. For information on copyright visit The UK Copyright Service: <http://www.copyrightservice.co.uk/>.

## Step 10. Most importantly

Have fun!

