



## Stuart Singers Soloist Selection Policy

The choir's wide variety of music frequently presents opportunities for solo performances of various lengths. It is important to us that soloists are chosen so that we achieve the desired performance of a piece of music whilst remaining transparent as to how that choice has been made. We are committed to ensuring that singers reach their potential within the choir and will do whatever we can to encourage and support development. This policy sets out the guiding principles the Music Director uses to allocate a soloist.

The criteria for allocating a solo are as follows:

1. The person must be able to sing in the range required
2. The person must have the right vocal style to suit the genre and style of the piece
3. The person must be able to deliver during a concert, preferably with sufficient confidence

The process for allocating a soloist is as follows:

1. Generally, we shall audition for a solo part. However, there will be extremely short solo "interjections" that the Music Director may decide to allocate without audition.
2. The Music Director will notify the choir of the solo parts (or small group parts) available and will provide guidance on the vocal style that is being sought. Anybody may then put their name forward to audition.
3. Auditions will be expedited so that we do not lose rehearsal time but unless it is a group piece, the auditions will be held individually. i.e. we shall not ask choir members to sing in front of others auditioning for the piece.
4. We may choose to audition soloists outside of the usual rehearsal time.
5. The Music Director, accompanist and another committee member will be present at auditions.
6. If a piece has been sung previously with soloists, we shall put that solo up for audition next time it is performed, and the previous soloist can choose whether they wish to audition.
7. The audition process will also seek to choose an understudy.
8. The Music Director's decision is final, and the right is reserved during rehearsal to review soloist allocation if the performance is not achieving the desired effect. Similarly, a soloist may discuss with the Music Director if they wish to withdraw from the solo for any reason.
9. If there are no volunteers for a solo part, the Music Director will choose someone to perform and an understudy.