

Notes for New Members Joining Borjghali 2015

Background

Borjghali was set up in 2004 by Anthony Johnston, it's founder and director. We perform in and around Bristol. We have performed twice in Spain and three times in Georgia. Our most recent visit to Georgia was in October 2014 as part of the Bristol Tbilisi Twinning Association's (BTA) celebration of 25 years of twinning between our two cities. We have a close relationship with the BTA and we often perform at functions and feasts.

The Year Ahead

We have a number of interesting performances coming up in the coming months - including some in support of the Rugby World Cup. Every November we have a regular Supra, or Georgian feast that takes place in the Wye Valley in November - this year it will be held on the weekend of 13th to 15th Nov.

Meetings

We meet at the Wildgoose Space, 228, Mina Road, BS2 9YP on Monday evenings between 7.30pm and 9.30pm and we meet three terms a year which are roughly organised around school term times. Terms usually last 10 weeks per year (sometimes 12). We also meet three times a year for weekend rehearsals in the Wye Valley. These are a lot of fun and will deepen your knowledge and enjoyment of the Georgian singing and your experience with the choir.

The Choir and You

The choir members are a friendly bunch of people and you should find them friendly and welcoming! The choir is fairly small, with about 20 members. We don't audition new members, but singing in a smaller choir requires each member to be able to sing fairly accurately. If you are new to Georgian polyphony, you should be open to learning some unusual lyrics and unfamiliar harmonies and melodies. But don't worry, this genre of singing soon becomes more familiar.

Songs are taught by ear - we don't use sheet music. We are keen to get people up and running with our key repertoire quite quickly and are in the process of recording the parts for you to learn.

The Music

Georgian folk singing is an amazing tradition that is very satisfying to sing. It has a number of different styles and genres within it - from sacred chants to more modern 'City Songs'. The music is very evocative, beautiful, sometimes lyrical and can be very passionate.

Term Costs

Normally a ten week term costs £100. This includes rehearsals before concerts - (instead of charging for this separately). If money is an issue, please let Anthony know. New members don't have to pay for their first two sessions, making the first term £80.

The start date for terms are printed on the home page, so please feel free to join us then!