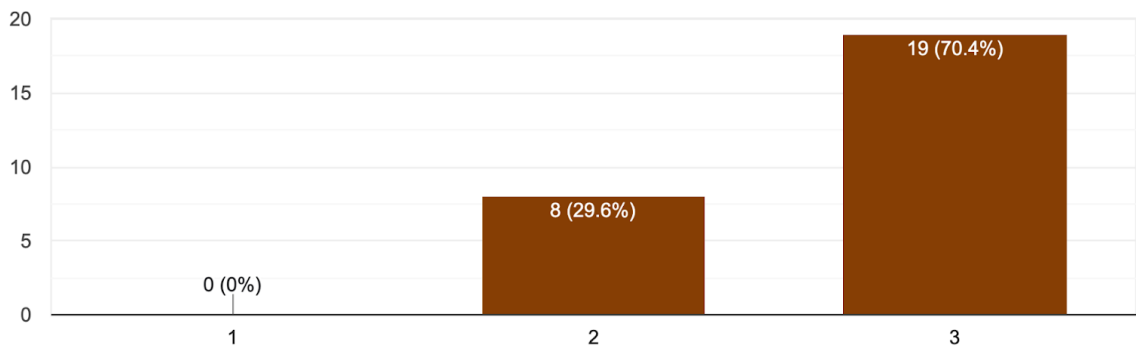


Eye Bach Choir Members Questionnaire Responses May '23

Performing major choral works?

27 responses



Comments - 16 responses

Though challenging the thrill of finally performing a major work for an audience is extremely rewarding

The opportunity to sing with other choristers to a high standard

Singing to a good audience who might be more attracted to major works of equal importance to me

And minor ones

I like the big stuff but I also like variety- especially if it manages to be secular

While the occasional lighter concert, like Sprigs of Thyme, is enjoyable, the major works should be our bedrock

I enjoy 'major' works, if this means long works, but they need leavening each season with lighter and shorter works

Minor choral works are also often very rewarding. Personally, I need a 'good tune' but I recognise that as my own inadequacy

This is a good choir and should do quality repertoire to stretch and stimulate us. The Rossini for example was excellent for us and we performed it well

We know what we do best and perform accordingly

I love the old favourites

Although I really enjoy performing these, I also enjoy lighter summer concerts

Very important really, but cost, space and small size of choir limits what we can do

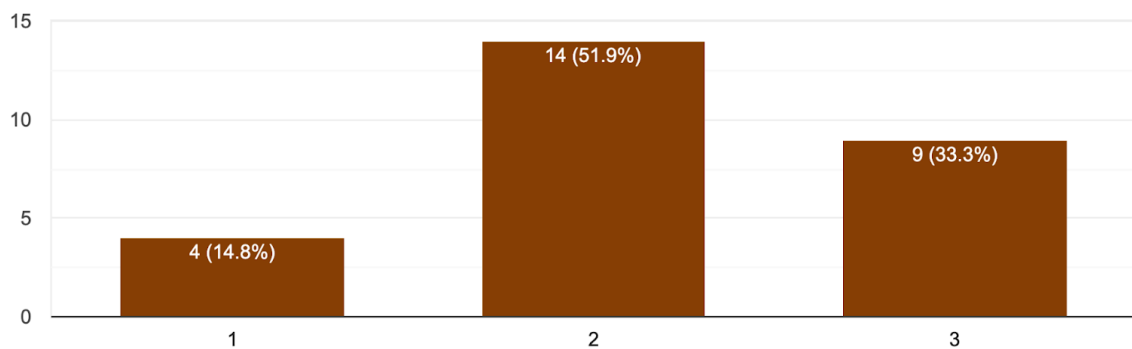
I also enjoy new works by young composers

I do enjoy a varied programme however taking on the major choral works is a challenge which I relish as often they are new to me as a singer

I enjoy the challenge

Enjoying social events with people with similar interests

27 responses



Comments - 10 responses

Shared interests can provide comradeship and enjoyment socially

I joined the choir to make friends and improve my social life

In part because I live some distance from Eye and do not enjoy driving. It is worth the drive to sing but not to socialise. However, I am prepared to support fund-raising events without necessarily attending

Lovely friendly people in EBC

Regular rehearsals are significant meeting points - I am very interested in that unique relationship that develops with the people one sings with - especially one's singing partner/neighbour. It is unlike any other relationship - uniquely intimate, yet we may know very little about each other. I have sung with some ladies who have developed dementia and that is a fascinating relationship as it develops into support worker/friend/partner

Dependent on travel costs

I find the distance from home to Eye for social events off-putting

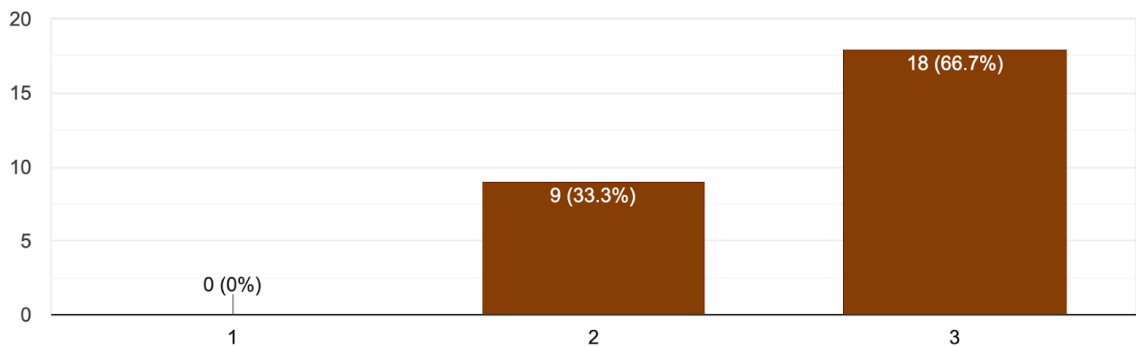
I have met nearly all my friends from the choir

I enjoy the opportunity to get to know other choir members better

Enjoyable, but not a priority

The range of musical styles performed

27 responses



Comments - 10 responses

Variety and challenge of learning new works is very important

Though I like classical stuff more than carols or 30's/40's songs

Variety is interesting and educational

I like the choices made since I joined

See above

Of course, I have preferred composers. I am willing and able to sing unknown composers and even composers that I find very difficult although sometimes it becomes unrewarding. It is important that the choir as a whole should be able to perform the chosen music

Feeling comfortable with the music is vital

I sometimes like new pieces/styles. A challenge is good. But many times, for me, it disappoints

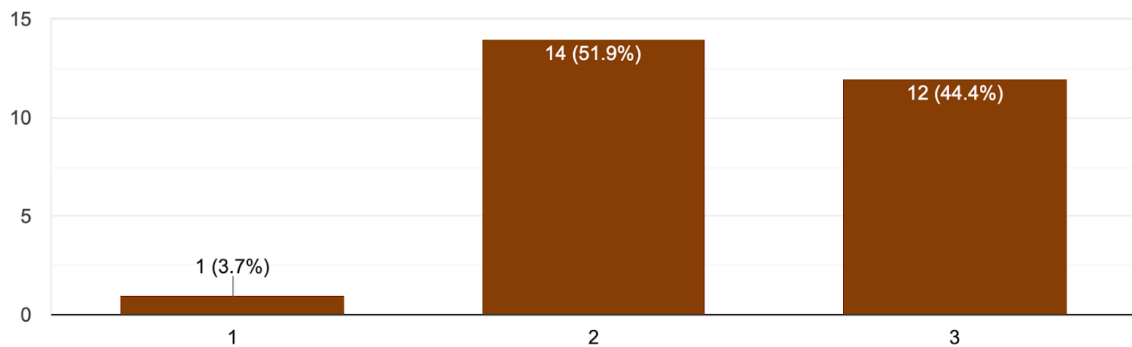
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I love trying new and varied styles

All genre has something special to offer in vocal technique, and reaching a wider audience

Making new friends and acquaintances

27 responses



Comments - 8 responses

Always a good thing to get to know new people

Living alone and new to the area this has been of great value

I see it as a bonus side-product rather than an essential, but it has been lovely meeting such a variety of people

It is nice, but I'd come anyway just to sing

I hope to attend more social events in future

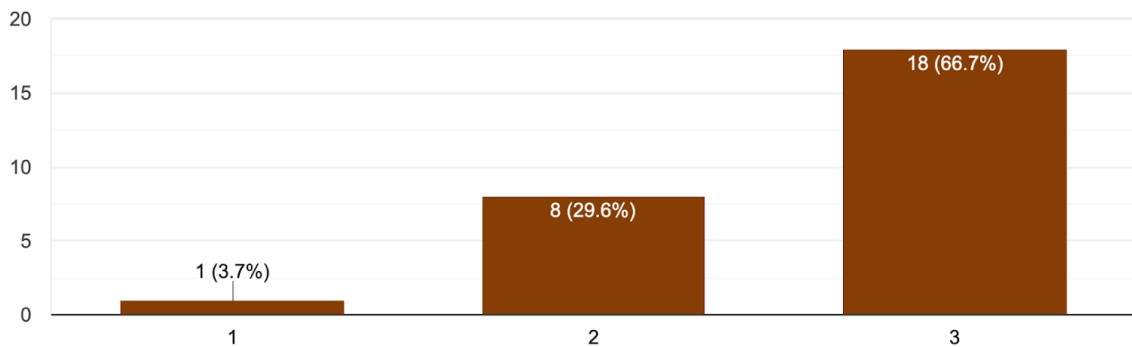
A good place to meet people, if that is what you want to do. Personally, it is not why I sing

Again, distance is a problem for me but I have made some very good friends

The choir is a great place to meet new people and make friends

The physical and mental health benefits

27 responses



Comments - 9 responses

Making the effort to step into a space outside your own four walls and to engage with a range of people is stimulating. Singing together helps with breath, mind and emotions!

Being recently retired I needed to fill my life with activities that are intellectually and physically challenging as well as providing a feel good factor

Hard to answer as I can't really assess the benefits in an objective way

The choir has supported me enormously recently!

Cannot be underestimated

I've ticked number 1 only because the form won't submit without a tick but the truth is that I don't know: As I have always sung, I have no idea what my mental/physical health would be like if I stopped

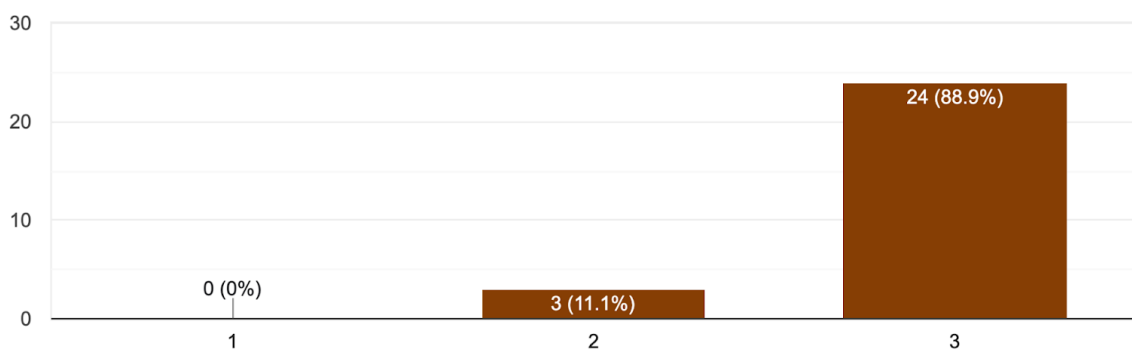
proven !

Music has kept me going through some very dark times

These are important as long as kept in proportion

Personal fulfilment and satisfaction

27 responses



Comments - 8 responses

My skills continue to grow by participating in the choir

It's good fun trying new pieces and taking on new challenges

If by that you mean the immense joy of being part of something beautiful

Challenging music performed well

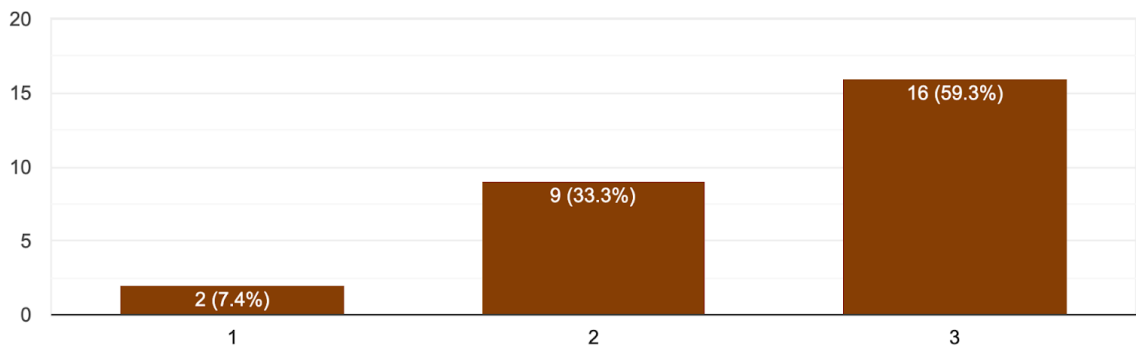
personal fulfilment is important. With more and more learning aids this can be achieved easier for people without a musical instrument

I love the sense of fulfilment that singing music correctly and expressively brings me

See above

I have grown in confidence since singing with the choir, and enjoy the challenges

The coaching/improvement advice offered
27 responses



Comments - 10 Responses

I am always looking to improve and to learn new things

No matter how long you have been a singer, there is a need to learn more

Leslie is very thorough

We don't get it!

I feel that we/I lack this at EBC at the moment. Obviously we come to choir and aim to do our best, but I know, from other choirs, that my technique and results can be dramatically improved with guidance from the conductor. I guess we need this because we are not professionally trained

learning aids are better than ever. And group sessions practising during the week is very useful, and I would always attend

This is very helpful to my personal development as a singer

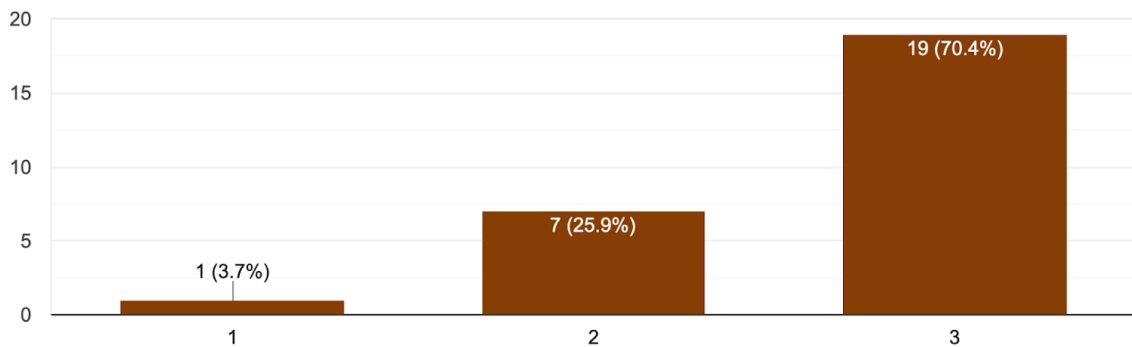
I would like to improve my personal technique as well as learning how to blend in the choir

I always appreciate learning how to improve my vocal technique

Currently could be more and never to be under estimated, I feel they put us in the right frame of mind and posture to be receptive

Being part of a choir that is highly regarded

27 responses



Comments - 8 responses

I specifically sought out a local choir that was auditioned and had high standards as well as being valued in the community

There can be a danger that people come across as being a bit too full of themselves, also of people getting over-critical of each other if this aspect is over-emphasised. It can also put more pressure on finances and discriminate against people who are less well-off. But I do appreciate the sound the choir can make when things go well and rehearsals are usually very enjoyable because there are so many capable singers

Really, it's being part of a choir that produces good music, regardless of whether that is widely appreciated. That said, audience appreciation is wonderful

But 'highly regarded' by whom?

High regard has some significance in that we need audiences to support us financially but I don't need the prestige of a leading choir

I feel a great sense of pride to belong to EBC as we create such a beautiful sound

We can attract better quality musicians and soloists and thus good audiences

Makes me feel very proud

Is there anything else you feel is important to you as a Member of EBC?

13 responses

Enjoying rehearsals as well as performance. Feeling respected.
Appreciating the efforts of others and receiving appreciation from others.
Concept of all 'pulling together' whether musically or when working as teams in order to complete the myriad of tasks to make the choir and its events functional

Eye is quite a distance to get to so I prefer not to be travelling further afield too much, especially in view of carbon footprints etc.. I really appreciated the offer of bursaries which I believe was available when I joined? I don't need it but making music-making open to people who are not wealthy is a principle that I truly believe in

I like mixed singing in a big circle. None of my other choirs do that. I like being warm enough. The Town Hall isn't bad for that. I like having rehearsals on Fridays as it doesn't clash. I like knowing that we have a sound treasurer in Ann H who prevents waste of funds. I like not using pirated sheet music

The commitment shown by everyone. I previously tried (briefly) one choir where people did not concentrate during rehearsals - they chatted among themselves and failed to use their pencils! It drove me away into the arms of EBC!

Consistency of musicianship to be able to feel connected with the music and the rest of the choir

I feel the work involved in organising the choirs activities need to be shared more broadly across the membership

Rehearsals need to be enjoyable, which they are often not. Tedious repetition of straightforward passages (and avoidance of difficult passages until just before a concert) is demotivating and counter-productive

I would like to see more communication with the members on repertoire. Might avoid the current situation where there is very little enthusiasm for current concert repertoire other than Elgar's Sea Pictures

Sectional rehearsals would be helpful

The attention to detail and commitment that everyone brings

To feel we are contributing to the cultural life of Eye

The choir has been both extremely welcoming and accommodating, which has been amazing, and is one of the choir's big strengths

Being part of the choir is more than just singing, it is all working together to achieve a successful performance