



Information for Members **2026-27**



Live Music To Inspire



Dunfermline Choral Union
Patron - Frances McCafferty

Rehearsal Schedule: The Vine Centre Mondays 7.15pm–9.00pm

Term 1 17 Aug–5 Oct 2026

17 August	7 September	21 September
24 August	Coffee & shortbread afterwards	28 September
31 August	14 September	5 October

Autumn break: 12 & 19 October

Term 2 26 Oct–7 Dec 2026

26 October AGM at 6.30pm	16 November	7 December
2 November	23 November	Christmas Quiz Night
9 November	30 November	

Christmas Concert 2026

Saturday 5 December The Vine 3pm & 7.30pm

Christmas Quiz Night Monday 7 December

Term 3 11 Jan–1 Mar 2027

11 January	8 February	28 February (Sunday)
18 January	15 February	Rehearsal with orchestra (tbc)
25 January	22 February	1 March
1 February		

Spring Concert 2027

Saturday 6 March The Vine Performance 7.30pm | Rehearsal 1.30pm

Term 4 15 Mar–17 May 2027

15 March
22 March

Easter break: 29 March & 5 April

12 April	26 April	10 May
19 April	3 May	17 May

Summer Concert 2027

Saturday 22 May The Vine 7.30pm

The true beauty of music is that it connects people. It carries a message, and we, the musicians, are the messengers.

Roy Ayers

President's welcome 2026

On behalf of Dunfermline Choral Union, I'm delighted to welcome everyone to the 2026–2027 season. Whether you're a long-standing DCU member or joining us for the first time, it's wonderful to have you with us.

This booklet should help answer most of your questions, but your section rep is always happy to help if there's anything you're unsure about, so please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Following another enjoyable and successful season, we're looking forward to a year filled with fantastic music-making, memorable performances, and friendship. Last year's concerts showcased a wide range of music, from carols and contemporary favourites to pop, swing, musical theatre and Baroque classics. This year, we're excited to continue exploring new repertoire and discovering more music together as a choir.

Singing remains at the heart of everything we do, and we're also looking to continue the social side of choir life, with opportunities for members to connect and enjoy spending time together beyond rehearsals.

DCU is a member-led organisation, and the choir depends on the dedication and enthusiasm of our volunteer committee. From supporting concerts and events to organising socials and helping with the day-to-day running of the choir, the committee plays an important role in keeping DCU thriving. A number of committee positions will become available during the year, and I'd warmly encourage anyone interested to consider getting involved. It's a rewarding way to support the choir, contribute new ideas, and help shape the future of DCU.

We're delighted to welcome back Mandy Miller as Musical Director and Yvonne Ferguson as our Accompanist. We're very grateful for their continued dedication, talent, and support.

Here's to another wonderful year of music, friendship, and shared experiences together.

Much DCU love,

Martin Scullion

PRESIDENT OF DUNFERMLINE CHORAL UNION

Music is nourishment, and a comforting elixir. Music multiplies the beauty of life and all its values Zoltan Kodaly

Annual General Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting (AGM) will take place on **Monday 26 October** at 6.30pm.

There will be vacancies on the committee so please give thoughtful consideration as to whether or not this might be something you could do. This is your choral society, and we need people to join the committee. Nomination forms will be available nearer the AGM. If you have any questions, please speak to Martin Scullion or any member of the committee.

Commitment

Choir rehearsals are a vital part of DCU's ongoing pursuit of excellence in performance as we prepare for our concerts at Christmas, Spring and Summer.

Rehearsals are designed to improve the quality of the music we perform. It is hoped that members will spend some time at home becoming familiar with the notes so that rehearsals can concentrate on the musical performance. We can provide support to help achieve this.

Regular attendance at rehearsals is therefore expected of all members.

- If you are unable to attend a rehearsal, please fill in an absence notification form or contact your section rep [details on back of this booklet]. Absence notification form can be found by scanning the undernoted QR code or copying this link to your browser:

<https://forms.gle/6PoZfiZvA5gFC9xS8>.



If you want to share further details with Mandy, please contact her [mandychoir@hotmail.com or 07740 084821].

- If you are unable to participate in a rehearsal but feel well enough, you are encouraged to come along to the rehearsal to listen and learn. This ensures that you don't miss anything and enables the musical director to rehearse the following week as planned.

It is assumed that as we are a performance-based choir, everyone attending rehearsals will sing in our concerts. It is the combination of individual voices that creates the full choir sound.

Concert Dress Code

Ladies

Scarf £6 from Alison Baxter (Alto)

Full length black skirt or dress trousers

Black, V-neck top with $\frac{3}{4}$ length sleeves

Black shoes

A discreet necklace may be worn

Men

Black DCU Nehru shirt £10 from Martin Scullion

Black trousers

Black shoes

Data Protection

The choir's Data Protection policy is in line with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). If you have any questions about this, please speak to the Data Protection Officer, Martin Scullion.

Fees

Fees for this season are:

Term 1	August to October	£53
Term 2	October to December	£53
Term 3	January to March	£53
Term 4	March to May	£53

Students pay reduced fees of £25/term

Fees can be paid annually for Terms 1–3, at the start of each term or monthly, six payments (Sept–Feb) of £26.50. Fees for Term 4 (£53) should be paid by all participating in March – or two monthly payments in March and April of £26.50.

It would be appreciated if your fees could be paid online using undernoted bank details and using your name and 'subs' as a reference.

Account name:	Dunfermline Choral Union
Sort Code:	80 06 55
Account Number:	06040012

If this is not possible, cheques made payable to Dunfermline Choral Union, or cash in an envelope detailing your name and amount on the front, can be given to Susan Paterson (2nd Soprano) at rehearsals.

If you have any questions regarding payments, please contact Susan at s.spaterson@btinternet.com.



Gift Aid

As a registered charity DCU is able to reclaim tax via Gift Aid. If you pay tax and have not yet signed up to Gift Aid, please consider doing this. You can request a form by email from Susan Paterson [s.spaterson@btinternet.com] which we would ask you to print off, complete and return to us as soon as possible. Gift Aid forms will also be available at our first rehearsal. If you have already signed up for Gift Aid you do not need to do anything further.

Matched Funding

If you work for a company which offers matched funding, please remember DCU and speak to the Treasurer, Doug Moore (treasurer@dunfermlinechoralunion.co.uk) who will help facilitate this.

Music Loan

You will receive your rehearsal music for which you are responsible at the start of the season. If you are new to the choir you will receive a black folder prior to your first concert. This folder remains in your care as long as you are a Choral member but must be returned if you are no longer singing with us.

Music must be returned at the end of each concert. Late return of music that we have hired can incur charges for DCU and makes Alison's job more difficult.

If, in the event, you do not sing in a concert, it is your responsibility to return the music as soon as possible – and **no later than the concert** – to Alison Sime, our music librarian.

Music Bags

We have DCU choral bags available at a cost of only £7 – perfect for bringing music and a water bottle to rehearsals.

Photos

The choir has photographs taken from time to time by a professional photographer. These photos will be used for publicity and marketing; this will include articles in the press, our website, and social media. If anyone has concerns, please speak to Martin Scullion.

You can't use up creativity. The more you use, the more you have.

Maya Angelou

Rehearsal Set Up

All choir members who are able are expected to assist with setting out chairs etc. prior to rehearsals; this normally takes about 20 minutes. Set up should not commence until 6.45pm to allow the designated group to fully participate.

The rota is organised by section and row – Mandy will announce this during rehearsal and send a reminder email to those involved over the weekend prior to their turn.

Social Events

We try to have a few social events each year which give us the opportunity to get to know other people in the choir.

The first event will be Coffee and Shortbread on **Monday 7 September** in The Vine, immediately after the rehearsal. Please make the effort to stay for this and meet other singers in the choir.

Website and Social Media

Please have a look at our website – dunfermlinechoralunion.co.uk – to find out more about DCU and get all the latest information about upcoming events.

Our main method of communication is by email. To make sure that you receive DCU messages please ensure that your rep has up to date details, or knows of any changes as soon as possible. Please also check your junk/spam folder regularly.

We also have Facebook [[Dunfermline Choral Union](#)] and X – formerly known as Twitter – [[@DunfChoralUnion](#)] pages, which we encourage you to like/share/retweet to spread our name and details of our concerts.



My idea is that there is music in the air, music all around us; the world is full of it, and you simply take as much as you require.

Edward Elgar

Live Music To Inspire



Contact details

President

Martin Scullion

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Alto Section Rep

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Tenor/Bass Section Rep

Martin Rowe

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Librarian

Alison Sime

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alisonsime33@gmail.com

Musical Director

Mandy Miller

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