



# THE LAST CHOIR SINGING COMPETITION

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## Last Choir Singing 2020

### Competition Rules

- The entry deadline is 29th November 2019. If a school enters after the deadline, they will go on a waiting list and may be able to take part should a choir from their area drop out. There is no guarantee that a choir on the waiting list will be able to take part and the organisers' decision on this will be final.
- The competition is open to junior schools that fall within the remit of Lancashire County Council; the unitary authorities of Blackpool and Blackburn with Darwen; Bolton Council; and private schools that fall within those areas.
- The competition is for juniors (Key Stage 2 children) only.
- Choir sizes should be between 15 – 60 pupils.
- Choirs will be allocated to a Region by the competition organisers. The decision of the competition organisers is final.
- The Regional Heats will take place in March 2020. Each choir will be allocated to a Heat and will be issued with a date and venue.
- The County Final will take place in June 2020 at one of the region's large venues.
- Each choir will perform 2 songs for the Regional Heats. One of these will be a set item, which all choirs will perform. The second song is of the school's own choice.
- Each choir will be allowed a performance time of 9 minutes in the Regional Heats and the County Final. Every performance must include the set item within this timeframe and this song must be sung first.
- Choirs that go through to the County Final will be required to perform 2 new songs. One of these will be a set item. It will be a different set item from the one performed in the Regional Heats and, again, must be sung first. The other song is of the school's own choosing and must be different from the songs performed in the Regional Heats.
- Apart from the set items, suitable material will be determined by the choir's choral master/mistress. There may be a common theme or items may be chosen to suit the technique of the choir. Choirs are advised to make the most of the different voices in the choir and ensure that all pupils in the choir sing for most of the duration of each song.
- The decision of the adjudicators, at all stages of the competition, will be final.
- Top places will be announced at the end of each Regional Heat and the County Final respectively. Choirs that have not been awarded a top position will not be placed. The number of top places and choirs going through to the Final will be dependent upon the numbers and sizes of the Heats.
- A prize of £250 will be awarded to the winning choir in each Regional Heat and will be issued as vouchers towards musical equipment. A trophy will be awarded to the winning choir of each Regional Heat. If the Heat is large enough, there will also be a runner-up prize of £125 and a trophy and the winner of the Artistic Award will receive a trophy.
- A prize of £1,000 will be awarded to the choir that wins the County Final. A prize of £500 will be awarded to the first runner-up and £250 to the second runner-up. The choirs that win the Angela Carson Award for Creativity will receive £250. There will, also, be a Best Newcomer award of £250. These will be issued as vouchers towards musical equipment.

- The Last Choir Singing Trophy will be awarded to the choir that wins the County Final. Trophies will also be awarded to the runners-up in the County Final and winners of the Angela Carson Award for Creativity and Best Newcomer awards. Certificates will be issued to all children participating in the Heats and the Final.
  - Each choir will be given a written report, which will be distributed after the Heats and the Final. The adjudicators' remarks will highlight the strengths of the choir and areas of performance where the adjudicators believe techniques could improve.
  - Each choir will be formally introduced and thanked after each performance.
  - Choirs can choose to be accompanied (piano or keyboard only) or use a backing track for all songs, including the set items. If choirs choose to be accompanied, schools must provide their own accompanist. The competition organisers will provide backing tracks for the set items or sheet music (where accompanied) and will send these to schools entered into the competition. It is still your choice, however, whether you use these backing tracks or use an accompanist. For the songs you choose yourself, you must provide your own backing track and sheet music or use your own accompanist.
  - If you use backing tracks for your chosen songs, copies of these must be clearly labelled with your school name and song name and emailed to [theteam@lastchoirsinging.co.uk](mailto:theteam@lastchoirsinging.co.uk) at least 14 days before the performance date.
  - A piano or an electronic keyboard will be provided for the accompanists. Choirs are not allowed to use any other musical equipment.
  - The appropriate number of teachers (1 adult per 10 children) should accompany each choir. Extra teachers are allowed for those children who need extra care.
  - There must be one nominated person with each school who is responsible for each choir on the day of each performance. Once the choir arrives at the venue, this person will be responsible for making sure the choir is ready and in position and behaves appropriately throughout the event. This person will also be responsible for making sure that children leave the venue safely, e.g. are collected by parents and guardians.
  - It is the schools' responsibility to ensure that their pupils are escorted to the event, either by the school or by parents and guardians and that the attendant teachers have emergency contact details for the children.
  - Schools will need to provide, to the organisers, the relevant information needed to obtain child performance licences or licence exemptions for the performances and to obtain permission from parents for each child to perform.
  - A running order and risk assessment for each event will be sent to each school, specific to the venue at which they are performing.
  - The use of devices, including telephones, to photograph or film at the events will not be permitted by persons other than our official photographer or film-makers. If the events are filmed, they may be broadcast, either live or at a later date, on radio or TV or put on a DVD and sold. Photographs, recordings and films may be used in publicity, including social media, for the competition and for future competitions and in point of sale material, e.g. programmes. It is the Schools' responsibility to ensure that permission for such use of images, films and recordings has been received from parents for each child taking part in the competition. Failure to do so will result in the relevant child(ren) being unable to take part. A permissions form will be provided by the organisers.
  - A high-resolution photograph of each choir will be required from schools before the Heats and the Final to be used for publicity and in our programmes.
  - Tickets for the Heats will be sold at a price of £7.50 per spectator, with £6.50 concessions for children and pensioners.
  - Tickets for the County Final will be sold at a price of £8.50 per spectator, with £7.50 concessions for children and pensioners.
  - Staff must not dismiss pupils prior to the end of the competition and must sign the choir in and out.
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I confirm that I have read and understood these Last Choir Singing Choir Competition Rules and I agree to abide by them.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please sign and return a copy of the signed Rules to Duncan Heather, 12 Hornchurch Drive, Great Sankey, Warrington, WA51ZN or email it to [theteam@lastchoirsinging.co.uk](mailto:theteam@lastchoirsinging.co.uk).