



## Welcome to Sangstream!

We are always delighted to have new members, and hope you enjoy singing with us. This sheet gives you some information about who we are and how we organise ourselves – please do feel free to ask any of us if there's anything else you'd like to know.

### What is Sangstream?

Sangstream was started in 1997, as an offshoot of what was then the ALP Scots Music Group (now just Scots Music Group or SMG, see [www.scotsmusic.org](http://www.scotsmusic.org)). Since 1999 the choir has been run independently, although we are still affiliated to SMG. There's a copy of the constitution in the welcome pack.

Sangstream aims to be a friendly and a fun group open to anyone who has an interest in group singing. It offers the opportunity to develop singing and harmonising skills with the help of an expert tutor, and also aims to help people learn about and share Scots songs, and to take these songs into the wider community.

We employ a Musical Director to lead us – Mairi Campbell who is a member of [The Cast](#) and the [Bella McNab Dance Band](#) has been with us since October 2003. Prior to that for the 3 years to June 2003 it was Jenny Clark of the [Battlefield Band](#), and before that, from the beginning in fact, Christine Kydd, who has been involved with many music projects. All very talented people!

### Committee

Sangstream is organised by a committee who are elected at the annual AGM. Currently there are 10 members: Shauna Dickson (chair), Katty Proudfoot (Vice Chair), Maureen Morris (Treasurer), Marion Mullins (Membership), Lorna Leyland (Archives), Sylvester Leyland, Nancy Davis, Carol Forsyth, Kate Frame and John MacLean. However, many other choir members also contribute to the running of the choir, and everyone's participation is encouraged. If you have anything you would like to contribute, or any suggestions, or if you'd be interested in joining the committee, please let us know.

### Subscription and term dates

There is a termly charge (currently £40 full, £20 concession) for being a member of Sangstream, to cover tuition costs. Fees are due by the end of the previous term to ensure your place in the choir, and so that we can offer any vacancies to those on the waiting list.

Each term lasts for roughly 12 weeks, and ten of those weeks will be led by our musical director. On the other two weeks we enjoy leading ourselves. If you have a song you would like to teach the group on either of those weeks, please let us know. In July and August for the past few years we have organised "drop in" sessions open to all, led by a range of traditional singers. You can pay for these as you go.

## **Venue and times**

Almost all of our sessions take place in Boroughmuir High School. When the school is unavailable (e.g. in school holidays), we look for another nearby venue. We try to start promptly at 7pm and to finish at 9pm. We have a short break about 8pm.

## **Material**

The bulk of our material is from the Scots tradition, with some of the arrangements being contemporary. As a rule of thumb, over a year (36 weeks) we work on about ten new pieces, but also maintain a number of existing pieces from our repertoire. We have a Music Organising Group (MOG) which works with the Musical Director to help select the songs we sing. If you have an idea for a song, or have views on the material we sing, please speak to one of the group; Mary McCann, Martine Robertson, Ellie Logan, Liz Wilson, Stuart Fergusson and Rona Fisher.

## **Learning the pieces**

We strive to learn our songs by ear - you are not expected to be able to read music. Word sheets are provided, but we encourage people to try and "get off the sheet" and learn the words. For each song it's up to you to decide whether you'd like to sing a low or a high harmony, or sing the melody. A number of free CD's are available of the songs from our earlier back catalogue. More recent recordings are available on our members' website.

## **Performing**

One of our aims is to take traditional song out into the community, and every term we have opportunities to perform in public. Over the past few years we have performed in various venues, both locally and further afield.

## **Waiting List**

At the 2001 AGM Sangstream decided to limit the number of members to "about 50". This was to keep the choir relatively small and friendly, and to make it easier to maintain the repertoire of songs. We have a waiting list, which is currently closed. We do, however, act with discretion if ex-members wish to return. We also encourage anyone thinking of joining to come along for a taster session.

## **Socialising**

We aim to be a fun and friendly group. Every Thursday after the session a group of people head off to the pub – usually the Green Room at Bennett's Bar. There are often informal social events after performances and at the end of every term. Once a year, in February or so, we organise a weekend away together, often using the rent-a-hostel scheme.

## **Website**

We have a website – [www.sangstream.org.uk](http://www.sangstream.org.uk), which provides the words to some of the songs, gives details of past and future gigs and also includes some photographs. It also gives details of how to join the Sangstream e-group ([sangstream@yahoogroups.com](mailto:sangstream@yahoogroups.com)); if you have access to email, this is another route for disseminating information.

We hope this will answer any questions you may have. If there's anything else you'd like to know, please do ask.

Happy singing!

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