



[www.meresingers.org](http://www.meresingers.org) maryskeith@aol.com

### **Mere Singers Autumn Term 2020**

Hello singers,

I hope you are all well and survived the summer! Thank you for sticking with me online last term and thanks to those who contributed to the River's Rising recording and video. £1675 was raised on the Just Giving Page and a further £260 (I think) via the Facebook link, making a total of £1915. I hope to get an updated figure from Roxane soon. Thanks to all who donated, it was a very worthwhile project and a very steep learning curve for me.

Things will look a little different this term, but there are some positives, and we are definitely moving towards real-life rehearsals again.

To give a brief update, following the updated guidance from **August 13th**, amateur choirs have been given the go-ahead to sing again, along with the "professionals", with the proviso that "non-professionals" do not compromise the 2 meter rule.

Also, updated guidance is now saying that **any number** can meet in a planned activity in a COVID secure venue (or outdoors), as long as this 2 meters is adhered to, as well as other mitigations are in place - eg Full Risk Assessment, Track and Trace info, no loud singing, as short a session as is reasonable, proper ventilation if inside (It is the build-up of aerosols released whilst singing that is potentially a COVID carrier), no socialising in groups of more than 6, do not attend if feeling unwell etc etc.

So, the problem now is finding venues to accommodate us.

Without going into too much detail, I have struggled to find something suitable at the moment, but The Hive is opening towards the end of this month and is a COVID secure venue with a proper ventilation system in place which also fumigates the building after each use. We would only be able to have a maximum of 40 singers in the main hall, but I am thinking the group might be a bit self selecting - I think some members might feel unsure about venturing out. So, in an effort to accommodate everyone I am proposing a term of a blend of *on-line* and *real-life* meetings, plus one outdoor session to kickstart things. The evenings will be drawing in so I am reluctant to programme any outdoor sessions in for the evenings.

As regards the on-line sessions, some of you joined in my ZOOM sessions in the summer which was great fun, so I am asking a quick survey of whether you prefer Facebook Live or ZOOM. Please reply by return of email with either ZOOM or FACEBOOK.

So- "*drrrrrrrum rrrrrroll*" - This is what I have decided to do for the coming term;

**SUNDAY 13th September 2-3.30 Carding Mill Valley Open Air Sing.**

Meet in the top car park, bring weather appropriate clothing, footwear, drinks etc and we will find a suitable spot to raise our voices skywards! We will sing familiar material TBA, so I won't be doing too much teaching and having to raise my voice!

**Mondays 14th, 21st, 28th September, 8-9.15pm**

**FACEBOOK LIVE** sessions, learning new songs, culminating in;

**Monday 2nd October HIVE LIVE** session! We will meet in the real world at The Hive in Shrewsbury (just up the road from the Old Post Office) to sing together what we have learnt in the Facebook sessions. The session will run 8-9.15 and I will stream it for anyone wanting to join in from home. We will have to adhere to the Hive Health and Safety policy, which I will be briefed on soon, and there will be no social drinking break I'm afraid.

**Mondays October 19 and 26; FACEBOOK LIVE.**

**November 2nd; HIVE LIVE!**

**Monday 9,16,23,30 November FACEBOOK LIVE** (*Learning seasonal songs*)

**Monday 7th December; HIVE LIVE!**

We still have the Mereside Centre provisionally booked for December 12th, When I contacted them recently, they are only allowing 30 people in, wearing masks... This may change in which case maybe we can meet for some kind of social (probably without audience).

It is also possible that we could do an outside carol singing event in December, I am going to play this by ear.

There are 13 sessions this term. If you would like to pay for the whole term I am offering a reduced rate of **£50** for the term, otherwise it is £5 a session.

\*Cheques to Mary Keith, 6 The Terrace, Welshampton Shropshire SY12 0PL

\*Bank details 09-01-33 acc no 04388580 or

\*PayPal [paypal.me/mazpan](https://www.paypal.me/mazpan)

Given the current uncertain times, if for any reason you can't afford sessions please don't worry, no questions asked, or you can make a donation.

I am still keen to compose a song for us using your words, anything at all inspired by the Lockdown... Positives and negatives, just a brief line or two will do. I cannot promise to use them all, but just wanted a few original thoughts from you to make a personal song for us.

Thanks to the very few that have offered up something so far. Please email them ASAP.

Any other questions/ suggestions please email me!

Hope to see you in the real world and please let me know if you prefer Facebook Live or Zoom.

Mary x

