

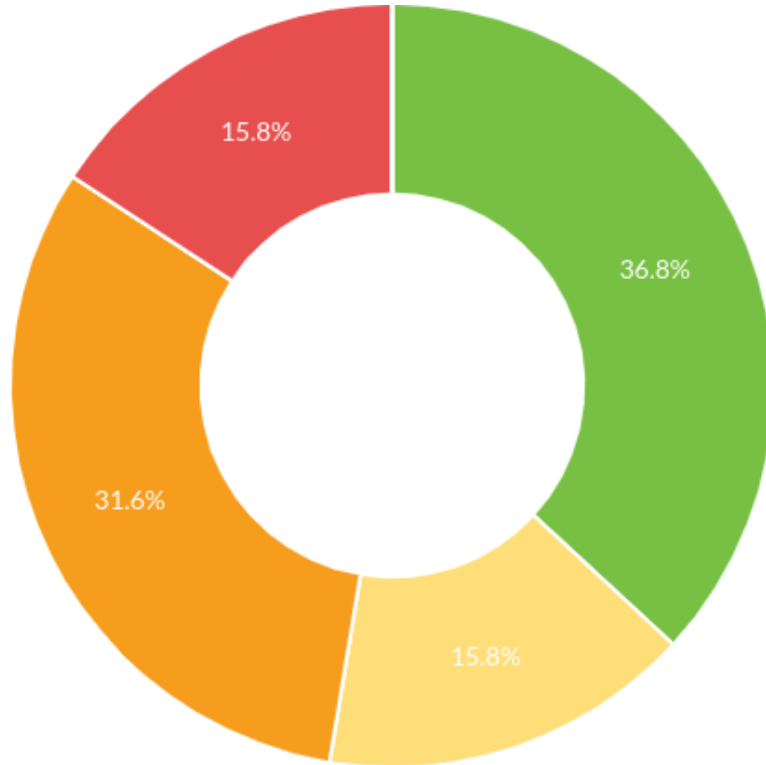


COTH Survey Results

September 2023



Demographics: Age Range



Choice

- 16 - 24 years old
- 25 - 34 years old
- 35 - 44 years old
- 45 - 54 years old
- 55 - 64 years old
- 65 - 74 years old
- 75 years old and above
- Prefer not to say

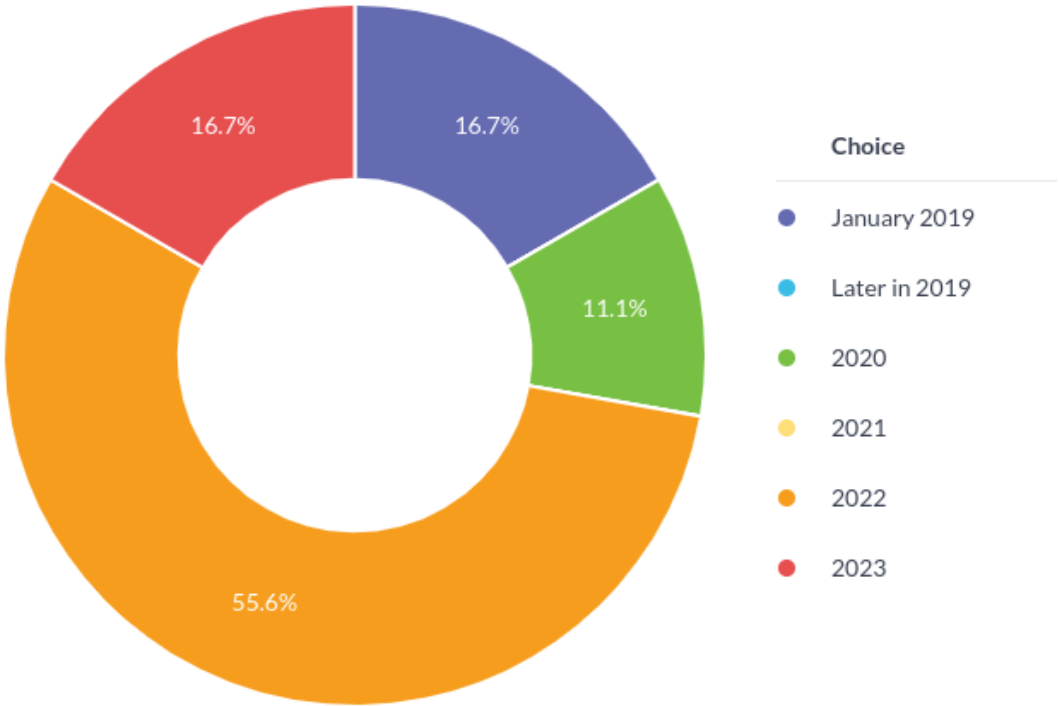
Demographics: Location

The majority of our choir comes from **SE25** (SoNo) & **SE19** (CP).

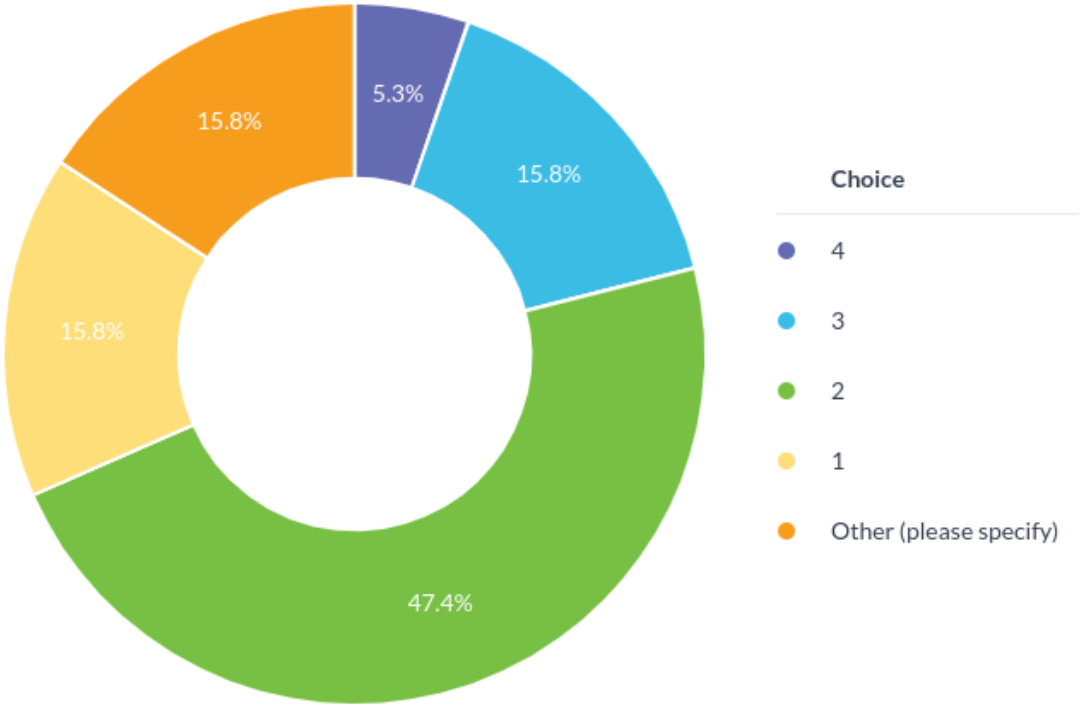
The other areas are:

- SW16 (Streatham)
- CR0 (Croydon)
- CR6 (South Croydon)
- BR3 (Beckenham)
- SE20 (Anerley)

Demographics : When joined COTH



How many performance opportunities per term?



Why COTH?

Here is some of what people are saying:

- ★ *"...Loved the friendly vibe and instantly clicked with people compared to other choirs I have been too. Cake is good too and nice to chat with people at the beginning..."*
- ★ *"...after looking at the website for a flavour of what the sessions would be like I decided to join. I especially liked the testimonials"*
- ★ *"...I joined to find friendship and also to gain confidence with singing. I never expected to find such a lovely supportive group of women.."*
- ★ *"I enjoy singing and wanted an activity close to home in the evening as a new hobby. I wanted to expand my social circle in my local area"*
- ★ *"Wanted to find my voice again after a rough few years...rebuild confidence and happiness"*
- ★ *"Length of session just right. Like the time for socialising beforehand. Good communication from management team."*
- ★ *"welcoming, supportive atmosphere"*
- ★ *"No pressure to be perfect"*
- ★ *"It's fun!"*

Potential improvements suggested 1/4

Name badges - maybe colour coded for Sop/Alto

Great idea! We are looking into getting more sustainable reusable name badges for regular attendees, and providing coloured stickers to indicate whether alto, soprano, or both. We will also have another option for new choir members and those who don't attend as often - watch this space!

Longer rehearsals

We're so glad that you want more COTH! Unfortunately, having a longer rehearsal would be tricky. We rehearse on a weeknight, so can't start earlier as some are already rushed to get to rehearsal for 1930. We also don't want to finish too late to allow proper rest. Others have also indicated that they feel that the length is just right - and would be tired if the rehearsal session was longer.

Potential improvements raised 2/4

More harmonies & more complex harmonies

Sure! We have already started to put this into practice but will definitely try to add in some more challenging arrangements.

More singing exercises to help us improve technique

As many of you will already know – Elspeth Wilkes has joined to lead rehearsals alongside Chris and we'll soon welcome Anna Pool, who will join us in November. This request has been shared with all 3 rehearsal directors, so expect to see a bit more of this in future.

Move notices to the end of rehearsal (as some people miss the beginning)

Like you we want everyone to hear the notices and stay up to date. Unfortunately, if we move them from the beginning of the rehearsal to the end, we will face other challenges that will impact our members. We now have multiple places where the notices are communicated: on the white board by the entrance to rehearsal, verbally at the start of each session and shared online via the bulletin board. If you miss the notices at any point, you can find them here on the [Bulletin Board](#).

Potential improvements raised 3/4

Less songs, but perfect them more

Thanks for this useful feedback. This is one that we plan to revisit once we have found our new 'rhythm' of working with the 3 rehearsal directors.

Off book performances

While there are definite benefits to performing off book, we want to ensure that our choir remains as accessible as possible to as many as possible. Many feel that not having the lyrics to hand would discourage them from performing. Having said that, we will explore the possibility of performing 1 or 2 songs off book – practicing this in our rehearsal space - to vary our performance styles and further develop our skills.

Potential improvements raised 4/4

Ensuring we perform with shorter people in front, taller in back

We want to make sure everyone feels comfortable with where they are standing when we are performing. It's important that everyone can see the conductor and, if family members or friends have come to watch, they can see you. We also know, however, that some members do not want to stand at the front, even if they are shorter. Sometimes we are restricted on space at our performance venues and there may also be times where we don't know exactly what our space will look like until we get there.

To help our members, we will put together a 'tips for performing' summary for the website which tells people what to expect and what to ask/look out for. We will also make sure we practice singing in performance formation at least a couple of times during our rehearsals.



More advanced notice and reminders of upcoming performances - maybe in a flyer or newsletter?

This is something that the COTH management team have already been working hard to improve. A newsletter is a great suggestion and we know from your feedback that this is one way we can vary our communication methods. We plan to start using email more frequently and will continue reminding you about upcoming performances during Coffee Notices, on the white board and in our website Bulletin Board.

Communication

This comment summarises most people's views:

"I'm happy to use WhatsApp as the main platform for communication with perhaps details and reminders about performances via email as I find it easier to click through to websites via an email (my phone screen is too small for my poor aging eyes!)"

Overall, it seems that most people are happy with our current communication set up, with perhaps just a bit more use of email for key information around rehearsals.

Socials

COTH pub nights are a winner! So we'll keep these in the calendar.

Outside of that most people prefer ad hoc meet ups to any additional regular socials. There is an appetite for more non-drinking and/or non-singing socials too. We will take this on board!

Note: If you want to be involved in the more ad hoc social activity with choir members, speak to Naomi or Erin to be added to the Social DIVAs WhatsApp Group.

Accessibility

Concessions

Most barriers mentioned in this section of our questionnaire are outside of our control (work/other commitments). However, difficulties paying for sessions was mentioned and this is something we have already addressed.

We have introduced a [concessionary rate](#) for members who may be struggling to pay. Details of this policy are on our website.

Travel

There were many offers to be a travel buddy or to provide a lift to anyone finding it hard to get to rehearsal but no requests for help. If a travel buddy or regular lift would help you return to (or continue attending) choir sessions, please either email sing@sflcommunity.org.uk or speak to a member of the management team at rehearsal.

Accessibility: ideas

Encouraging more non-binary people to join - and perhaps even men

We have always been keen to be a welcoming and inclusive community - having discussed the issue raised, we would love to work with the person who made this suggestion to make the choir a space where a more diverse range of people feel welcome. As a first step a [statement](#) has been added to the welcome section of our website.

Weekend 'catch up' rehearsals

For reasons to do with resourcing and available time, we are unable to offer weekend catch up sessions. Leading up to a performance, however, we may offer a rehearsal at the weekend before an event. In the past we have also held ad hoc separate alto or soprano practice sessions outside the main rehearsal times. We'll let you know when these are organised in the future.

Boosting presence on socials and local notice boards

We absolutely agree! We're working on this and welcome any help and suggestions from our members.

Accessibility: ideas

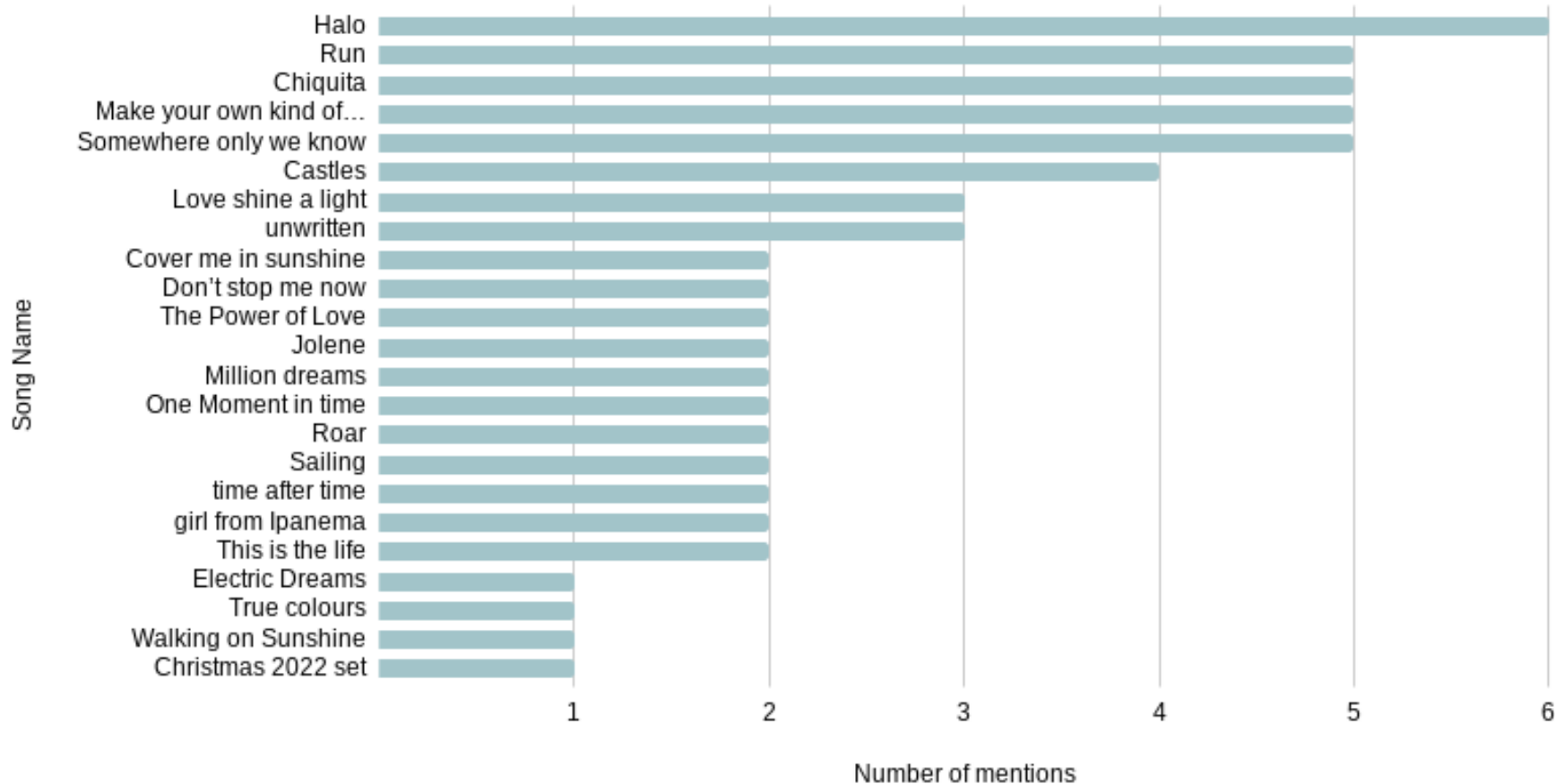
Bigger text on the song sheets

Although we aim to make the font size for our lyrics as big as possible, we are slightly limited when it comes to printing them out for rehearsal (bigger font = more pages & sides = more printing). However, going forward we will make larger font formats available in our Lyric and Audio Library for members to download and print off themselves if they would like to.

Signpost the loos (make it clearer for new members where they are)

This is an easy fix. We'll make the signage more visible.

Favourite Songs



What's next?

We'll keep asking for feedback, and will be in touch with more surveys like this.

In the meantime, if there is anything that you would like to feed back, please don't hesitate to let any of us know! We are your management committee:

- ★ Christopher Braime
- ★ Lizzy Deans
- ★ Vicky Wisken
- ★ Naomi Rocha
- ★ Erin Trembley
- ★ Angela Russell
- ★ Kathleen Drum
- ★ Cara Evans