

SONGSQUAD

**WE ARE NOW HOLDING AUDITIONS FOR SONGSQUAD 2008-2009
COME SING WITH US!**

IS THIS YOU?

- You really like singing
- You are aged 11-14 years (boys should be trebles)
- You want to develop your singing to a higher level
- You want to perform in concerts, competitions and other events both locally and across the UK.
- You are willing to be committed to *all* rehearsals and concerts

Songsquad is directed by Val Whitlock, voice and choral specialist for Solihull Music Service. Val is an award-winning and nationally known choral trainer, vocal animateur and author.

Songsquad have a reputation for their quality singing, and have performed at the Royal Albert Hall, Coventry Cathedral, Symphony Hall, Birmingham Town Hall and Warwick Arts Centre. They have twice been finalists at the National Festival of Music for Youth.

Rehearsals are on Thursdays 6.00 – 7.45 p.m. at Lyndon Music Centre Daylesford Road, Solihull B92 8EJ. We also have choir Awaydays and occasional extra rehearsals as we approach a concert.

HOW DO YOU JOIN SONGSQUAD?

- Entry is by audition
- Complete the application form overleaf
- Contact Val Whitlock for further information:
- 0121 743 2483 or messages@solmus.solgrid.org.uk

YOU COULD BE PART OF SOMETHING EXCITING...

- Develop your vocal skills
- Develop your performing skills
- Sing a wide range of repertoire including world music, popular, show and traditional songs
- Perform in regular concerts, events and competitions in high profile venues across the UK.
- Meet and sing with other like-minded people

SONGSQUAD
GREAT SINGING, GREAT COMPANY, GREAT FUN!

WHAT'S INVOLVED?

Cost

Tuition fees per term are £26.91

Commitment

- Children are expected to attend **all** scheduled rehearsals and concerts throughout the season. Only illness, important school events or family emergencies are considered acceptable reasons for absences. Wherever possible written requests for leave of absence must be made in advance of such events.
- In addition to weekly rehearsals the choir may attend an 'awayday', at a weekend each term.
- Children are also expected to learn music at home – they may be given music and/or wordsheets. All our programmes are performed from memory.

Parents orientation meeting

We ask parents of new Songsquad members to attend a brief orientation meeting. This will take place at the end of the first rehearsal following auditions. This will help parents to become better acquainted with the choir. In our experience, the children enjoy greater success in the choirs if their parents are familiar with the choir's routines and management.

Membership Standards

Registration:

Please arrive to rehearsal promptly. *Singers Please Note:* although 15 minutes are allowed for registration, this does not mean that you are on time if you arrive at 6.00 p.m. Late arrival and early dismissal is disruptive to the rehearsal process and is therefore not allowed without good reason.

Registration: 5.45 p.m.
Rehearsal start: 6.00 p.m.
Rehearsal end: 7.45 p.m.

Concert Uniform

All choir members wear a Songsquad polo shirt available from the Music Service (cost £10). You will also need to provide long, plain black trousers (no jeans, combat pants) smart dark shoes (no boots, trainers or high heels) and black socks.

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AUDITION INFORMATION 2008-2009

Open rehearsal

As part of the audition process all potential new choir members are asked to attend a rehearsal the day before their audition; either Thursday 16th October, or Thursday 7th December. This is an opportunity for your son or daughter to get a feel for how we work. They will sit next to a choir 'buddy' who will make them feel welcome and ease them into the rehearsal. Your child can then decide if they wish to audition to join the choir.

Audition Dates

These will be held at Lyndon Music Centre.

Friday 17th October 4 – 6 p.m.

Friday 7th November 4 – 6 p.m.

Audition Requirements

- Applicants will be asked to sing *Happy Birthday* **and also** a song of his/her choice. This will need to have a **piano accompaniment**, which you should bring with you. Please note backing CD's are not appropriate for this audition, but a pianist will be available for each applicant.
- There will also be some other activities to assess your son/daughter's musicianship skills.

How do I know if my child is ready?

We looking for children who:

- love to sing
- are vocally secure and have performing potential
- have a good aural ability
- have an openness to learn and can cope with the focus of our rehearsals
- can commit to all rehearsals and concert schedule.

Results

We will let you know the results of the audition by letter. If your child is unsuccessful on their first audition, don't worry. We aim to set the very highest standards for Songsquad, and we try to invite them to return for an audition at a later date, and hope they might be successful.

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AUDITION APPLICATION FORM 2008-2009

Child's name:

Address:

Parent/Guardian name(s):

Home telephone:

Daytime

telephone:

Mobile:

E-Mail:

Child's Age: _____ Date of Birth:
