

15 July 2025

Dear Choir Leader,

We have great pleasure in announcing the third Usk Choral Festival. This festival is based on two main principles - it's non-competitive and it incorporates a wide mix of music in every concert. We simply want to celebrate choral music in all its forms and give a platform to as many local choirs as possible.

It will take place over the weekend of **2nd – 5th July 2026** in venues in Usk. Each choir has a performance time of 20 minutes, with an additional 5 minutes to allow for organising the placement of your choir members and changeover. Each concert will consist of a maximum four choirs taking part in each of the nine concerts.

Our previous festivals have been an enormous success. If you were one of the choirs taking part, you will know all about the special atmosphere. From Cathedral Choirs to Community Choirs – everyone is welcome. If your choir loves singing, we would love to hear from you.

The only downside to the success of the previous festivals, is that we know that we will have many more choirs applying to take part in 2026 than we can accommodate. This means that we will have to disappoint some of you. When developing the programme, we always endeavour to showcase as many different genres of choral singing as possible and to ensure that each concert features very different choirs. It is a tricky balancing act! You can increase your chances of gaining a place at the festival by offering a range of timeslots when you can perform. Choirs who can only offer one evening timeslot for example, are much less likely to be included.

One of the main principles of the festival is that choirs remain in the audience throughout their concert to cheer each other on and to learn from each other’s performances. It is a condition of entry into the festival that you agree to stay in the audience for the whole of your concert. If your choir cannot do this, please do not apply to take part.

Please complete the application form and return, with a photo of your choir, to uskchoralfestival@mail.com by 30th September 2025 You will hear whether or not your choir has been successful by the end of November 2025*.*

We look forward to hearing from you all

***Usk Choral Festival Committee***

*Drew Morton, Anne Goldsworthy, Caroline Davies, Barbara Hughes, Peter Lloyd, Bobby Woodcock, Chris Williams, Janie Allen*

*Please note Usk Choral Festival is run entirely by volunteers and there are no appearance or performances fees paid or payable. Audience ticket prices are kept as low as possible.*