



## LYME BAY MOONRAKERS – NEW MEMBERS INFORMATION PACK

### ABOUT *LYME BAY MOONRAKERS*

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Lyme Bay Moonrakers is a new and exciting vocal and instrumental group, based in Lyme Regis. We are a group of amateur singers and instrumentalists, working towards professional performance standards. The group is run by its owner, artistic director and professional musician, Mark Hewitt.

Our repertoire consists of original arrangements of songs (both new and old), sea shanties, ballads and other sea-related songs from the British Isles and beyond. We aim to give around 6-8 'pop up' performances along the coast as well 3 performances of a theatre show each year.

### REHEARSALS

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We aim to have 2 regular separate rehearsals weekly: singers and a separate rehearsal for the instrumentalists – coming together for joint rehearsals later in the rehearsal process.

**Singers:** **Friday** evenings: a 2-hour rehearsal from 7.00pm-9pm.

**Instrumentalists:** details to be confirmed.

**Venue:** **St Michael the Archangel Church Hall (the hall is on the right of the church), Lyme Regis DT7 3DB.**

**Directions to St. Michael's Church Hall on page 6**

### SUBSCRIPTION COST AND BENEFITS

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Lyme Bay Moonrakers is a unique group, combining elements of traditional folk music, choral singing and musical theatre. The members' subscription fee covers: hire of rehearsal space, MD's rehearsal fee, a fee to cover the creation of new bespoke arrangements for the group from the MD (including sheet music and home-practice mp3s), on-going advertising and website costs, plus the purchase of equipment and props. Fees also cover any professional audio and video recording for the group.

During Covid restrictions we cannot meet as a full group, however, we have been able to meet in small groups of 6, outdoors. **To reflect this change of circumstance the monthly subscription is 50% of the normal cost, ie. £13 per month, instead of £26.** This will revert to the standard £26 per month when we are once allowed to rehearse indoors as a full group.

The normal subscription is £312 per year, paid in 12 instalments of £26 per month by standing order. New members who are in their trial period should pay £6 in cash each rehearsal before setting up the standing order once they become a full member.

## IN BRIEF - WHO WE ARE LOOKING FOR

### VOICES

No previous experience necessary. All ages welcome. You should be able to sing in tune and enjoy performing as part of a group (or if confident, as a 'solo'). We have lots of rehearsals to learn the music and to help build confidence. We use the 'pop up' performances as a good way to develop confidence prior to the theatre shows.

### INSTRUMENTALISTS

You should be a confident performer and have a good standard of playing. This group is not suitable for beginners. We are looking for 'folk' instruments (see the relevant section for some examples).

Some special people will be both good singers and instrumentalists!

## IN DETAIL - VOICES

Skill/Attribute for Voices	ESSENTIAL	DESIRABLE	NOT ESSENTIAL
Be able to sing in tune	X		
Be able to learn music and words 'by heart' (this happens over a long period, so don't be alarmed!)	X		
Be able to read music notation			X
Commit to attending rehearsals	X		
Commit to participating in performances	X		
Be willing to develop some acting skills (movement and character).		X	

Potential new members will be invited to meet the musical director who will hear you sing and discuss with you your suitability for the group. We will inform you of the outcome within 1-2 days.

**You should prepare:** to sing an unaccompanied folk-song/shanty of your choice (lasting approx. 1-3 mins) **from memory if possible. This will be in private to Mark Hewitt and Carmel Gardner.**

**Some tips:** think about how you will bring the song 'to life': how can you portray the meaning of the words through your voice, face, body language? Enjoy yourself!

If you are invited to join, there is a trial period of 6 rehearsals for new members, after which time (or sooner if the member does not wish to continue) the musical director and member can decide whether membership of LBM is suitable for that individual.

## IN DETAIL - INSTRUMENTALISTS

Skill/Attribute for instrumentalists	ESSENTIAL	DESIRABLE	NOT ESSENTIAL
To be a competent player (not a beginner)	X		
Be able to read music notation		X	
Have some ability to improvise		X	
Be able to learn music 'by heart'	X		
Commit to attending rehearsals	X		
Commit to participating in performances	X		

Firstly, our group is **not suitable for beginner instrumentalists**.

Any instruments which fit the 'folk' genre are welcome. Some suggested instruments: Accordion, Concertina, Fiddle (violin), Viola, Cello, Double Bass, Tin whistle/flute/wooden flute/recorder, Mandolin, Ukulele, Guitar, Percussion (hand-held drums mainly). Other instruments may be considered – just get in touch with us.

Sorry but **we are not looking for**: electric guitars and keyboards, saxophones, brass instruments, organ or piano.

Potential new members will be invited to meet the musical director who will hear you play and discuss with you your suitability for the group.

**You should prepare**: to play an unaccompanied folk-song/shanty piece of your choice which shows you at your best (lasting approx. 1-3 mins) **from memory. This will be in private to Mark Hewitt and Carmel Gardner.** We will inform you of the outcome within 1-2 days.

If you are invited to join, there is a trial period of 6 rehearsals for new members, after which time (or sooner if the member does not wish to continue) the musical director and member can decide whether membership of LBM is suitable for that individual.

## TRIAL PERIOD FOR NEW MEMBERS

If you are invited to join, there is a trial period of 6 rehearsals for new members, after which time (or sooner if the member does not wish to continue) the musical director and member can decide whether membership of LBM is suitable for that individual. After the trial period, if a member feels the group is no longer right for them, we would appreciate 1 month's notice before you leave us.

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## HOW WE LEARN THE MUSIC

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You are not required to be able to read music notation as the music is taught by listening and copying. Some members do read music notation and sheet music is available for members to use in rehearsal (but not in performance). Audio files for home study/practice are available. We learn music over an extended period of time, so that everyone has enough time to learn the music 'by heart'.

Instrumentalists: sheets music and audio files will be available, plus there will be elements of improvisation.

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## COSTUME

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We perform in costume! Members are responsible for supplying their own basic costume. When other costumes are needed, these will be purchased for the members from group funds. Please see the Pinterest Image gallery for the type of basic outfit we are looking for: <https://pin.it/zNMnjE9>. We wear these costumes for all performances. **We do have a stock of some pieces of the costumes and all costumes need to be approved by Carmel Gardner to ensure that they fit in with the group 'look'.**

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## HOW LYME BAY MOONRAKERS IS ORGANISED

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Unlike many amateur music groups, Lyme Bay Moonrakers is not a constituted organisation (run by committee and officers) but is run as a membership-subscription business by owner, Mark Hewitt with support from a Membership/Bookings and PR team. The members' subscription fees help support rehearsal venue hire, rehearsals and for creating new musical arrangements and rehearsal audio files. The Membership/Bookings and PR team are paying members of the group and are both employed by Lyme Bay Moonrakers for their work. A percentage of profits from paid performances returns to the group for purchase of props, extra costumes and may go towards, for example, the making of a cd recording or music video or other ways to promote and develop the group.

- The experience of being part of an EXCITING, VIBRANT and FUN musical team!
- Regular rehearsals and support to develop your performance skills
- Sheet music/lyrics sheets for all songs (as pdf files for home printing and mp3 files)
- Opportunities to perform in public at 'pop-up' events and as part of a bigger annual theatre show.
- Opportunities to do solos (in agreement with the Musical Director).
- Opportunities to collaborate with the Musical Director on the creation of new song lyrics (if you are a creative wordsmith!).

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## BURSARIES FOR YOUNG SINGERS AND INSTRUMENTALISTS

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### Young Peoples' Bursaries (aged 19 or younger).

We are offering a number of bursaries which would enable young singers and instrumentalists to sing and play with Lyme Bay Moonrakers. Each bursary is worth £312 and covers the cost of annual membership.

- We would like you to:  
Have a good standard of performance skills (be at least Grade 5 standard – you do not need to have taken the exam).
- Commit to regularly rehearsing with us.
- Commit to performing with us at our pop-up performances or at our theatre shows.

Lyme Bay Moonrakers has a safeguarding policy for young people who participate.

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## CONTACT US

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We would love to hear from you!

If you are interested, please contact Carmel Gardner [lymebaymoonrakers@gmail.com](mailto:lymebaymoonrakers@gmail.com)

Website <https://lymebaymoonrakers.org/>

E-mail [lymebaymoonrakers@gmail.com](mailto:lymebaymoonrakers@gmail.com)

Facebook [Lyme Bay Moonrakers](#)

Twitter [@LMoonrakers](#)

Office e-mail [lymebaymoonrakers@gmail.com](mailto:lymebaymoonrakers@gmail.com) (e-mails from this address go to Mark, Carmel and Miranda)

Musical Director: Mark Hewitt [www.mark-hewitt.co.uk](http://www.mark-hewitt.co.uk)

Membership; event bookings: Carmel Gardner

PR (Social media/Website/Advertising): Miranda Woodhouse

## Directions to St Michael's Church Hall

Coming from the East, drive down Charmouth Road past Toad Hall Cottages on your left where Charmouth Road becomes Church Street. The Hall is on your left just past the Church. Nearest car park is by the clock tower at the bottom of Broad Street which is further round on the same road just past the traffic lights.

Coming from the West/North, drive through the traffic lights at the bottom of Broad Street and soon after you have gone round the sharp left-hand bend you will see St Michael's Church on your right. Nearest car park is by the clock tower at the bottom of Broad Street which is just before the traffic lights on your right by the Rock Point Inn – this will be before you reach the Church.

