



Welcome Pack

Who are Crowthorne Musical Players?

Crowthorne Musical Players was formed in 1950 by members of the Parish Church and since then has performed many musical shows at various venues. Since the 1970s the society has produced at least one major musical every year. Recent performances include Kipps The new Half a Sixpence Musical, The Wedding Singer and Disney's The Little Mermaid.

We meet on Monday and Thursday evenings as well as the occasional Sunday - primarily at Crowthorne Parish Hall with some rehearsals at the Methodist Hall and Morgan Centre. For Ghost however, due to a scheduling clash with another society, we are rehearsing on Tuesdays and Thursdays until November.

Every year we perform a big musical, supported by various other concerts and shows locally in Crowthorne and in Bracknell. We also hold various fundraising social events throughout the year which we hope you can join us for.

We pride ourselves on being a very friendly society, besides the serious business of performing, we like to have fun, have a laugh and socialise.

CMP is a registered charity - registration number - 1139345 and we are affiliated to the National Operatic and Dramatic Association (NODA).

The CMP committee are all volunteers working in various roles to support the running of the society to ensure we survive and thrive.

Chair - Janet Winn

Secretary - Tom Horrox

Treasurer - Nyck Moore

Committee Members - Peter Winn, Emily Boneham-Horrox, Jessica Morton and Jamie Milburn

We would love to hear from you with any feedback (positive or constructive), ideas and/or suggestions - so that we can ensure CMP is the best it can be. Please let us know in person, in a message or our anonymous feedback/suggestion box at <https://www.cmp-berks.org.uk/account/suggest>

Stay up to date with CMP at <https://www.cmp-berks.org.uk/>
<https://www.facebook.com/crowthornemusicalplayers>
and on Instagram @crowthorne_musical_players

Ghost Production Team

Director - Tom Horrox

Musical Director - Mark Webb

Co-Choreographers - Erin Hope-Pharo / Amy Williams

Cast Expectations

Being part of the cast comes with a set of responsibilities and expectations, listed below:

● Attendance & Absence

Please ensure you can attend the majority of the rehearsals before auditioning as poor attendance not only impedes your learning and impacts your satisfaction of being involved in this production but it directly impacts your fellow cast members and production team.

We appreciate you may not be able to attend every rehearsal - where you have got commitments, please make these known on your audition form. Where possible we will try to accommodate your availability as long as it will not significantly impact the participation and enjoyment of other members.

The rehearsal schedule will be updated at regular intervals and we will try to give you as much notice as possible when you are called, however you would expediate this process and minimise changes if you inform us of any absences on usual rehearsal days as soon as you are aware.

If you do have other commitments/illness/things that come up out of the blue that mean you cannot attend a rehearsal at the last minute, please do inform the production team directly (Tom, Mark, Amy or Erin) as soon as possible. Where possible this needs to be substantially before the rehearsal begins to allow for backup plans to be put in to effect.

● Membership Subscriptions

● Basic Subscriptions

All cast members must pay for the **£15** basic subscription. This is payable for all members of all ages except life members. Basic subscription covers the period annually October to September. This allows you to audition for any CMP show, participate in our annual Christmas Concert, vote at our Annual General Meeting and insures you to be on the stage. **£10 of this must be paid prior to auditioning with the remaining £5 being paid before commencement of rehearsals.** You can pay via cash, card or bank transfer via <https://www.cmp-berks.org.uk/account/cast> if you login and select CMP Basic membership. **Please pay via Bank transfer or cash where possible.**

● Show Subscriptions

All cast members must pay for the **£110** show subscription (juniors/students pay £30). This is required to take part in the show and supports with covering some of the associated show costs which will likely be in excess of £25,000. **Show subscriptions must be paid either in full or in increments by January 31st 2024.** This can be paid by cash, cheque or bank transfer. You can set up a standing order to split the show subscriptions into smaller payments if this is helpful; please do let us know how you intend to pay. If you are suffering from financial hardship or have unexpected expenses which will delay payment, please speak to Tom, Nyck or a representative from the committee to discuss your options.

Our financial year begins October 1st so any subscriptions for the new year will be due from that date. We cannot accept subs via bank transfer or through the website until this date unfortunately, however you can pay cash before this date.

● How to pay

You can pay for your subscriptions in many ways.

1 - Bank Transfer.

This is always our preferred method as we don't receive any charges for direct bank payments. Wherever possible, please pay us using the bank details below:

Lloyds Bank

Sort Code: 30-91-11

Account Number: 02131925

2 - Cash in person.

Cash in person should where possible be handed directly to the Treasurer Nyck Moore. When this is not possible, the Director is the second point of contact.

3 - Card payment in person

We can accept card payments in person which we get charged for using but this charge will NOT be passed on to you. If you wish to make a card payment please speak to Peter Winn.

4- Payment online

You can purchase your membership online from <https://www.cmp-berks.org.uk/account/cast>

It's free to sign up and when you go to the "Cast and Crew" area there is a link to purchase which ever membership relates to you. We DO get charged for every transaction using this service so Bank transfer would be preferred.

● **Own Learning**

There is an expectation for the cast to be working on and practicing their songs/character/dances (where applicable) outside of rehearsals. Rehearsals are limited and thus it is necessary to minimise repetition when songs have already been covered. If you are absent, you must take responsibility to catch up, utilizing other cast members where possible.

To rehearsals, please bring electronic copies or printed copies and a pencil (whichever you prefer) of any libs/songs that you require for the rehearsal to use and to be able make annotations/notes.

● **Active engagement**

All cast members are expected to take an active role in the society by selling tickets, marketing the show and promoting Crowthorne Musical Players - ie. liking, commenting on and sharing social media posts, inviting friends and family and supporting with fundraising. Without the support of marketing the show from members, we cannot sell tickets and Ghost will require a very different selling angle from us. We will need your help to make this strategy work.

● **Leaving the cast**

We sincerely hope you stay with us for the full length of the rehearsal period however, from time to time plans change and you may not be able to complete this process. If this is the case, we will happily refund you your show fees on a pro rata basis. For example, if we were 25% of the way through the rehearsal period, a 75% refund will be issued. This is due to the subscriptions predominantly covering the very large costs of rehearsal hall hire. The basic subscription is non-refundable.

1. How to audition

- **Applying to Audition**

To audition you **MUST** have paid £10 of your £15 membership prior to audition which is non-refundable. You must also fill in the audition application form on the website. This is available on this link:

<https://www.cmp-berks.org.uk/ghost-apply>

Please be honest about your availability for rehearsals. Your availability responses on the forms will not affect casting, except in extreme examples i.e. if you can't make it to half of the rehearsals. Your responses are used to create a rehearsal schedule that best reflects everyone's availability and means we need less time to re-cap things people have missed.

- **Pre-Audition**

Please note that rehearsal days for Ghost are a little different to our usual rehearsal days. Rehearsals will commence on Tuesday 3rd October and will continue every Tuesday and Thursday prior to auditions. Rehearsals will switch to Mondays, Thursdays and some Sundays from Monday November 6th onwards. All rehearsal dates will be listed in the audition application form on our website.

Attendance at pre-audition rehearsals are not mandatory but recommended.

- **Dance Auditions (Tues 3rd & Thu 12th October – 8pm Crowthorne Parish Hall)**

All cast members will need to do a dance audition. If you are unable to make either of these dates then please contact Erin or Amy to arrange an alternative date. The dance audition will require no pre preparation and will be a test of your ability to learn, as well as dance.

- **Audition Day (15th Octo15th 1.15pm Crowthorne Methodist Hall)**

CMP hold open auditions for their productions where all auditionees are present in the room at the time of your audition. It is a very supportive environment but also provides a very good idea for the production team as to what you are like under pressure to perform. You may be asked to do your audition multiple times depending on who you are paired with. In the interest of fairness, we will always take your first attempt as your audition and any subsequent outings are you supporting other auditionees. Please don't read in to pairings or people being used multiple times. It is a busy day and we are trying to give everyone an equal chance to show what they can do.

The auditions will be video recorded. This is solely for the purpose of memory aiding for the audition panel to avoid recency bias when casting. They are not intended for any other purpose. If we would like to use them for any other purpose then we will always ask everyone featured for their permission before doing so.

- **Audition results**

We will endeavour to decide on the audition day who will play what roles, but this can be a lengthy process so please be patient.

Once complete we will post the results on our website. Any uncast roles or call backs will also be displayed at this time. If you wish to receive feedback on your audition (whether you are happy with the casting or not) this can be arranged via Tom in the week or two immediately following the audition.

We encourage you to seek feedback if you are unhappy with your casting. This can often put your mind at ease as to the reasons for the decision and we do not want rumours or hear-say creeping in to rehearsals causing bad feeling. It is natural to harbor feelings of rejection if you are not cast in the role you want, but understanding the reasons why always helps. Any discussions will be kept confidential.

- **Rehearsals and communications.**

Primary information about the show will come via e-mail from the production team. This may be reiterated in a Facebook messenger group but given the chaotic nature of these groups, things can get missed. As such we will keep these channels for social chit chat and reminders.

If you need to make a last minute contact about changing of plans, a phone call would be the preferred method of contact as early as is reasonably possible.

All rehearsal aides like videos and note bashes will be available in the members area of the website. Please ensure you are signed up to the website prior to auditions with the email address you used to apply so that we can grant you the appropriate permissions.

Please ensure you attend rehearsals promptly and with everything you need and are ready to go at the start time.

We have made the decision to initially start our evening rehearsals at 8pm to allow people more time to attend as too much time gets wasted in the first 15 minutes. Please offer to help set up and pack down at the end of rehearsals too.

Finally - have fun!

Most of all, being part of a society like Crowthorne Musical Players we want you to have fun and enjoy yourself! There will be plenty of opportunities to have a chat, have a laugh and get to know one another.

In what has become a bit of a Crowthorne Musical Players tradition, many members regularly go to The Crooked Billet pub after rehearsals for a drink, a chat and plenty of laughter - it's a great way to get to know your fellow members!

Everyone is invited to these social occasions, the more the merrier.

Thank you for taking the time to read this document.

If you have any further questions about the show or the process, please don't hesitate to ask them.