

The Isle of Wight Folk Orchestra / Band and the Isle of Wight Folk Choir / Chorus

Orchestra / Band

Various folk orchestras / bands that formed related to towns, villages and churches. Folk orchestras / bands were found in many parts of the England. They play local music, the Island has a wonderful selection of tunes to choose from. They also play music related to various themes. For example the themes could be parts of Great Britain - a Scottish selection, Welsh Selection, Irish Selection also European tunes, Old Time American Tunes and so on.

They are made up of acoustic instruments of all sorts:- guitar, violin, flute, whistles, banjo, mandolin, uke, recorder and so on. The players can play by ear but it helps to be able to read a little. No audition is given, it is hoped that new members just meld into with the group. All the musicians can play the tune, any arrangements are limited so that it does not matter if any members are missing. Good tuning essential.

They play at concerts, tea parties, fairs, festivals, for folk dances, folk clubs and anywhere that will have them.

They give lively spoken introductions to the tunes so as to give the history and feeling of the island.

Choir / Chorus

Many towns and villages have or had a choir / chorus. The W.I. sang many of the folk songs. The folk songs can be sung accompanied (guitar is useful) or unaccompanied. The island has a great selection of local songs. To these can be added some old favourite folk songs. Themes such as a sea song selection would make a great addition. Stories can be told around the songs and at appropriate times the audience can be encouraged to join in. Again the choir / chorus can sing at local events.

Summary

Both the IOW orchestra / band and choir / chorus require careful leadership so that they retain members and entertain a variety of audiences. The main things are that they are great fun and that performances when put on are at a fairly professional standard.