

Changing Words of Songs

(Adapted from Campaign Choirs email string 2017)

Issue:

The words of a choir's songs in a draft *Demonstration Event* song-sheet were changed without anyone contacting the choir.

The choir was happy that people liked their songs, and were happy to share them with whoever wanted to sing or reproduce them.

They didn't mind words being slightly tweaked, but were concerned about someone wanting to update or change one of their songs in a big way.

They noted that a lot of thought and discussion goes into every word, into how it scans, how the rhymes work and how the song hangs together, and that a song would probably not work so well if someone else changed it without discussing with the people who wrote it.

For Future Events:

On the whole, we are pretty good at acknowledging others, but it is always worth a reminder to be respectful about choir songs.

There is a difference between adapting words of a well-known song and adapting 'original' lyrics written by another choir, to suit a particular *Event* (Demonstration, March, Rally etc.).

In the latter instance, please seek from the choir permission to change their 'original' lyrics, and acknowledge that the lyrics have been adapted for *the Event*.

Wherever possible, please remember to include the name(s) of the songwriter and composer with each song. That will make it easier down the line to check proposed changes with the originators.

Campaign Choirs Network
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