

Suggested Fees structure for conductors

Choirs should consider paying a fee (honorarium) to their conductor in recognition of the professional contribution by the conductor to the choir.

The fee reflects the qualifications, experience and achievements of the conductor, together with their commitment to the choir, and whether music is their primary source of income.

Rates vary from choir to choir and from conductor to conductor, depending on the experience of the conductor and the size of the choir but the following may act as a rule of thumb or guideline:

An average choir (30-60 singers) might pay between €80 - €120 per week. (€3200 – €4800 pa).

A conductor with significant training in conducting could expect €150 per week for a large choir and up to €200 per week for a very large choir.

A separate, additional fee for concerts and/or competitions can be agreed between conductor and committee by negotiation.

It should be noted that this fee does not represent full payment for the work undertaken by the conductor, as significant time is spent in researching, sourcing music and preparation outside of the rehearsal time.

Choirs should prepare a 'contract for services' document, clearly stating that responsibility for making PAYE and PRSI contributions lies with the conductor. The conductor and a representative of the choir committee should sign this document.

ACCOMPANISTS

Where accompanists are used the rates vary enormously. The top rate is €60 per hour for a professional but the average is between €35 - €48 per hour, depending on the training & experience of the accompanist. A performance fee for concerts should be paid as well.