



Sing2026: New Format

As we look ahead to Sing2026 in Harrogate, on the last May Bank Holiday weekend of 2026, the Board and Convention Team have been carefully reviewing feedback, costs, and the member experience. We want to ensure that our flagship event continues to be vibrant, sustainable, and truly focused on what our community values most: singing together, celebrating excellence, and sharing time with friends old and new.

After a full review, Sing2026 will move to a new format which reflects member feedback and ensures the event remains both affordable and sustainable.

What You've Told Us:

- Delegate costs are too high for a viable annual event.
- Concern about the financial burden of Convention on the organisation.
- Empty Seats during performances are discouraging.
- Bank Holidays are useful for travel.
- Social is at the heart of BABS and our events should continue to reflect that.

New Format:

- Moving from a 2.5-day event to a 2-day event:
 - Previously: Friday afternoon opening → Sunday late.
 - Now: Saturday morning opening → Sunday late (as normal).
- Saturday: Male and Mixed Choruses – treated as separate contests with separate awards, but all included in the same draw and therefore mixed throughout the day to allow a compacted schedule and to ensure a consistent audience for all groups.
- Sunday: Quartet semifinals (morning) and finals (afternoon) allowing for increased social time and increased audience for performances.
- Saturday Show and Sunday evening Afterglow/Open Mic remain key features.
- Currently investigating an optional Friday event if there is sufficient demand, to be held in the team hotel or a nearby location to the convention centre (social singing, informal welcome, or other activity).



Sing2026: New Format

- Remove "BABS Hub" due to low uptake and feedback around timings – educational activities will be delivered as part of separate events throughout the year.

Ticketing:

- £75 All-Inclusive Full Weekend Ticket: covers all shows, contests, and activities.
- Youth/Carer with toddler ticket: £37.50 All-Inclusive.
- Junior ticket: £27.50 All-Inclusive.
- All competitors will be required to purchase the All-Inclusive Full Weekend ticket.
- Audience Member Single Day Ticket: £35 (can be purchased for Saturday OR Sunday). For attendance on both days, the All-Inclusive Full Weekend Ticket is required.
- Audience Member Show Ticket: £15

Anticipated Benefits:

- Lower delegate costs (both accommodation and ticket prices).
- Reduced event running costs, protecting members from large price increases this year and - if well received - in the future. For information, the costs of Sing2026, if based on previous models, would have been over £200,000, which is a 15% increase on Sing2024.
- Fuller audiences for all contests.
- Bank Holiday Monday continues to provide an additional travel day.
- Stronger focus on afterglows and social singing.

Operational Considerations:

- Changing rooms retained for now (felt to be important by members), but size and allocation will be reassessed per contest day.
- Limit chorus entries to maintain a manageable schedule - in many cases, this has occurred naturally in previous years due to geographic limitations.
- Overseas guest acts only if near, or achieving, cost-neutral (avoid high expense).
- Clearer contestant timing instructions to reduce unnecessary 'chasing'.



Sing2026: New Format

- Contest-day structure designed to maximise both audience numbers and performer experience.

On Timing of This Announcement:

We recognise that this update comes later than usual. There are a number of reasons for this:

- We needed to know what you thought before we acted.
- We needed to review and forecast budgets to ensure no financial risk was being taken by the amendments.
- We needed to understand the fuller picture of the events market to reduce the proposed cost increase from our current suppliers and to reduce the potential impact on our members (via ticketing or membership fees).
- We needed to consult with the Convention Team for their input and feedback.
- We needed to act carefully and methodically - in part due to reduced volunteer capacity - to ensure the decision was made with care and the utmost consideration for our members.

It was important to make sure we fully understood the position and had a workable plan before sharing this update.

Looking Ahead:

We are committed to earlier announcements of any changes and have already begun with preparations for Sing2026. We are currently going through a period of change, and while this has meant a little delay this year, our priority remains delivering a strong and sustainable convention for everyone.

Sing2026 represents an opportunity to refresh our convention in line with what members have asked for: a shorter, more affordable event with the same world-class singing and even stronger focus on community and celebration.

We look forward to sharing more details as we prepare together for Sing2026 in Harrogate.



Sing2026: New Format

Frequently Asked Questions

When and where is Sing2026 taking place?

Sing2026 will be held in Harrogate over the last May Bank Holiday weekend in 2026.

Why is the event moving from 2.5 days to 2 days?

The cost of running Sing2026 in the old format would have been over £200,000, a 15% increase on Sing2024, which is not sustainable without significant increases to ticket prices. By streamlining to 2 days (Saturday morning → Sunday late), we can protect affordability for members while still delivering a high-quality event.

What happens on the Friday?

There will be no formal Friday programme, but if there is enough demand, we will organise an optional Friday activity such as social singing or a welcome event. This would take place in the team hotel or a nearby venue to the convention centre.

How will the contests work?

- Saturday: Male and Mixed Choruses will each be treated as separate contests with separate awards, but all entries will be drawn together and therefore scheduled across the same day.
- Sunday: Quartet Semifinals (morning) and Finals (afternoon).

What about shows and social events?

- Saturday Show remains a central highlight.
- Sunday Afterglow/Open Mic will continue as the closing celebration.

Will there still be a Hub?

No, the BABS Hub will not form part of Sing2026. Instead, education and workshops will be delivered at other BABS events across the year. This decision is following feedback and low numbers at some BABS Hub events at this past Convention.

How much will tickets cost?



Sing2026: New Format

- £75 All-Inclusive Full Weekend Ticket – covers all contests, shows, and events (including the Friday activity if it goes ahead).
- Youth/Carer with toddler rate: £37.50.
- Junior rate: £27.50.

All competitors will be required to purchase the All-Inclusive ticket.

Why was this announcement later than usual?

- We needed to know what you thought before we acted
- We needed to review and forecast budgets to ensure no financial risk was being taken by the amendments
- We needed to understand the fuller picture of the events market to reduce the proposed cost increase from our current suppliers and to reduce the potential impact on our members (via ticketing or membership fees).
- We needed to consult with the Convention Team for their input and feedback.
- We needed to act carefully and methodically - in part due to reduced volunteer capacity - to ensure the decision was made with care and the utmost consideration for our members.

Will events be announced earlier in future?

Yes. We know members need as much notice as possible to plan, and we are committed to announcing future events further in advance. We are going through a period of change, which slowed this year's process, but clearer timelines are a priority moving forward.