

Concert Attire

or

Darling, I Simply Haven't A Thing To Wear

The Angela Sorrell mystery (see [here](#)) has stimulated some discussion on the thorny issue of concert attire, and whether (and what) sort of uniform the choir should have: stick with the status quo, or make a dazzling leap into the unexplored territories of sartorial singing.

The internet being the splendid time-waster that it is, here's a quick précis of my googles. Both of them.

An Indiana school (specifically, the Columbus North High School) has plenty of choir pictures on the net: members of their *Festival Chorus* sport rather smart robes, which have the advantage of being unisex...



Singing with attitude

...although the effect is perhaps slightly tempered by the motley collection of jeans and trainers poking out at the bottom. And, of course, such dark colours are *bound* to run in the wash – terribly tricky to keep that chevron so sparkly brighter than bright, even with today's modern biological washing detergents.

The same school's *Concert Choir* (right) have adapted the enrobed look, although the dark-colour-running caveat still applies – I've cropped the jeans and trainers this time to avoid offending Cotswold sensibilities further...



...whilst the 25th Street Singers (left) have taken a rather daring approach: the ladies with their elegant but *sleeveless* black dresses, and the gents with their open-collared shirts, apparently following the current fashion in British politics.

A final music group from the rich seam of ideas and images presented by the Columbus North High School – *The Debuteens and Music Men* – combine the traditional with the daring: the menfolk have donned their white tie, whilst the gentlewomen are attired in dresses that are both *sleeveless* AND *turquoise!* And they're *patterned!!* I shall move on before I am stretched to a triplet of exclamation marks...



...pausing to note the simple effectiveness of the 'survivor's t-shirt' (suitable slogans for a CNCS equivalent can be emailed to the webmaster at: watchtheconductor@btinternet.com – e.g. *Timing is relative* or *Pianissimo is for wimps* or *Tippett? No, reduce, reuse or recycle*)...



...and concluding that, whatever our gripes with our current costume guidelines, surely they're more comfortable than the outfits sported by *The Mediaeval Baebes*, an octet of singers who can be found at www.mediaevalbaebes.com. I especially like the headwear.

