

WETHERBY CHORAL SOCIETY

(Charity number 510264)

INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS 2017–18

Welcome to Wetherby Choral Society

Membership is open to all and the Society is keen to encourage new members to join and share the joy of singing. We hope you enjoy rehearsing and performing with us. We always aim for the highest standard we are capable of, but we also aim to have fun too.

Subscriptions are currently £100 a year, payable in one or two instalments. There may be a reduction in the subscription for members joining after Christmas, at the discretion of the Treasurer. ***If a member has not paid their subscription by the time of the first concert, they will not be allowed to sing.***

Rehearsals are held in St James's Church Centre, Church Street, Wetherby on Mondays, from 7.30pm to 9.30pm with a short interval. Rehearsal dates for the year are printed in the yellow leaflet, available from June for the following season. There is limited car parking at the church centre, but it is usually possible to park in the car park on Walton Road.

Scores are usually on loan from the Hull or Leeds music libraries. We have an obligation to take care of these scores and to return them promptly after each concert. Please bear the following in mind:

- use only a soft pencil to make markings in your copy
- rub out all personal notes and information in the score, especially on the front page, before returning your scores at the end of the concert in the boxes provided
- if you are unable to sing in a concert, return your score(s) to the Librarian before the concert
- late returns or damaged books incur a cost from the library, which will be passed on to the choir member concerned.

Contact details will be requested when you join and updated each September. We use emails for circulating information, and each member's preferred method (email, text, phone call) for our 'cascade' system for urgent messages, such as last-minute cancellation of rehearsals.

Tea rota – during the interval at rehearsals, tea and coffee are served by choir members for a small charge. Each member is expected to take their turn on the tea rota. Please check when your duties are. If you will be away that week, please swap with another member or see the rota organiser. Tea, coffee, milk etc is provided, but cups need to be laid out and the boiler put on before the rehearsal. At 8.20pm, leave the rehearsal to make the tea. Afterwards, wash up and put the cups away (and turn off the boiler).

Concerts

The Society normally gives four concerts a year – in November, December, March/April and June. The venue is usually St James's Church, Wetherby. There is generally a rehearsal with soloists and orchestra in the afternoon before the evening's concert performance.

Concert tickets – all choir members are responsible for selling as many tickets as possible for each concert! Sales are organised by a choir member, commencing one month prior to a concert. Tickets are also sold by the Parish Office at St James's Church.

Soloists' hospitality – many of our soloists live outside the area, so they usually need a light meal between the rehearsal and concert, and occasionally a bed for the night. If you are able to provide either occasionally, please see the choir member who organises hospitality.

Concert dress is:

Men – dinner suit, white shirt with collar, black bow tie, black shoes.

Women – long black skirt or smart black trousers, black blouse with full-length or three-quarter-length sleeves, black shoes.

Concert attendance

If you will not be singing in a concert, please do not attend the final Monday rehearsal before that concert, and return your score(s) before then.

If you are singing in the concert, please make sure you tick the list that circulates a few weeks beforehand – seating is set out for the exact number of names on the list, so failure to sign up will mean there is no seat allocated for you!

If you are unable to attend the afternoon rehearsal, please ensure someone knows and can keep a seat for you for the performance.

If you planned to sing in the concert but then are unable to do so, please ensure that you contact the chairman before 1.45pm on the day of the concert so that the seating can be adjusted.

Staging

The Society owns its staging, which is stored in the crypt at St James's Church. Before every concert the staging has to be brought upstairs and assembled, and chairs for the choir, orchestra and soloists have to be put out. If you are able to help with this – or have non-singing family members who could help – please join the rest of the set-up team at the church at 11.45am on concert day. (Some members find a pair of gloves helps with lifting items.) The set-up includes jobs which don't involve heavy lifting, so do come and help even if you can't do any lifting.

After the concert the staging has to be dismantled and returned to the crypt and the church has to be restored to its usual state ready for Sunday morning services. Please help with chairs, staging, kneelers etc after the concert so everyone can get home as quickly as possible.

Concert etiquette

The afternoon rehearsal usually starts at 2pm. Please be in your seat by **1.50pm**.

Because the performance area is a different size and shape from the rehearsal room, it can take time for everyone to be seated in positions where they can see the conductor. You may find that you have to sit beside different people; please be flexible.

For the evening performance, please assemble in the church room (where we rehearse) by 7.10pm.

- At 7.20pm, we order ourselves into lines so that the staging fills up from the back, tenors and sopranos on the left, bases and altos on the right.
- At 7.25pm, we make our way to the church and file neatly in to our seats. Remain standing until a front-row soprano indicates for us all to sit down – together!
- At 7.30pm, the conductor and soloists will enter the church. Choir members may applaud while seated but when the conductor turns into the central aisle, the choir stops applauding and stands up.

After the concert, we receive applause while standing. Once the soloists have left the floor, the choir can sit down and start applauding the soloists. We do **not** applaud whilst standing.

Concert programmes will be available to purchase at the afternoon rehearsal.

The Society

The Society's AGM is held during a rehearsal in late May/early June. Reports on the year are presented by the chairman, musical director and treasurer, and committee members are elected. Opportunities to nominate or be nominated to the committee will be announced at the rehearsals in the weeks beforehand.

Funding

Members' subscriptions cover the cost of rehearsals. The costs of concerts are funded from ticket sales, a small proportion of subscription fees and fundraising events, such as the regular raffles and a 100 Club, plus occasional events such as a quiz, auction of promises etc. We are always interested in fundraising ideas!

Non-attendance

If you decide to leave the choir, or take a term off during the year, please let the Membership Secretary know so that the registers etc can be amended.

Contacts

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| Chair | Graham Reed | 01423 797988/07788 837872 |
| Secretary | Heather Marsh | 01937 584048 |
| Treasurer | John Visser | 01904 738488 |
| Librarian | David Spors | 01937 587299 |
| Membership Secretary | Hilary Marsden | 0113 201 7144 |
| Tea/coffee rota | Enda McCarthy | 0113 268 4040 |
| Tickets | Kathy Hart | 07860 454894 |
| Hospitality | Judith Hodgson | 0113 293 1689 |
| Staging | Tony Gooch | 01937 844568 |
| Weddings | Charlotte Meek | 01937 574077 |