

Swindon Choral Society

INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS

1 Welcome to Swindon Choral Society

The Musical Director is Robin Nelson and our Accompanist is Andrew Wicker. All other Officers and Committee members are listed on our website – www.swindonchoral.org.uk

2 Rehearsals

Rehearsals are held at Freshbrook Church, Worsley Road, Freshbrook, Swindon SN5 8NU on Thursdays from 7.30 – 9.30pm. Rehearsal schedules are issued for each concert and are available on the website. Please attend regularly and be punctual in starting, so that maximum benefit is obtained from the rehearsal time available. Attendance registers are kept by Section Leaders and members are expected to miss **no more than three** rehearsals to justify singing in the concert. The last two rehearsals **must be attended**. Exemptions from this rule will be rare and only at the Musical Director's discretion.

Please inform your Section Leader if you are not able to attend rehearsal for any reason.

Alyson Stevens	Soprano 1	alysonstevens18@gmail.com.
Maddy Tanner	Soprano 2	maddy.tanner@gmail.com
Ann Sharpe	Alto 1	annanddavid_sharpe@hotmail.com
Ivy Schoon	Alto 2	ivyschoon@btinternet.com
Mark Thomas	Tenors	mark.thomas@rwe.com
John Coppen	Basses	john.coppen28@gmail.com

3 Auditions

New members are auditioned before singing in a concert and, if successful, serve a probationary period of a term before full membership. Auditions are held in private with Robin Nelson and Andrew Wicker and consist of:

- Simple scales to ascertain range and appropriate part e.g. Tenor 1/Soprano 2
- Interval tests - picking out upper and lower notes
- Repetition of a short melodic phrase
- Singing a prepared piece- a hymn/carol/short song or aria
- Singing a passage from the work currently being rehearsed
- Sight-reading a short melodic line

4 Subscriptions

- a) £120 per annum/£50 for members aged under 30/Free for members aged under 20; a concessionary rate of £90 is available upon application to the Treasurer treasurer@swindonchoral.org.uk. Members are required to pay a full year's subscription.
- b) Subscriptions are due on 1st September each year and may be paid in a single payment via the website, by cheque (to *Swindon Choral Society*), cash or bank transfer. Members may prefer to pay by standing order annually, quarterly or monthly. Those joining part way through the year will pay a pro rata amount;

- c) The Society is a Registered Charity and is therefore able to claim Gift Aid on a proportion of subscription income. Members who are UK taxpayers are encouraged to complete a Gift Aid form, available from the Treasurer.

5 Music

- a) Music is available to hire and members are asked to return it, with all markings erased, at the first rehearsal following the concert. Lost music must be replaced at the member's expense plus any charge imposed by the Library, plus the £10 fine imposed on the Society for incomplete sets returned;
- b) Scores may be purchased through the Society at a discount on normal retail prices. Orders are taken before we start a new work.

6 Concert Days

- a) On the day of the concert there is a rehearsal in the afternoon at the concert venue. **All choir members are expected to attend.** Any absence must be agreed with the Musical Director in advance;
- b) Each voice section takes responsibility once a year for concert management - erecting the staging/seating/preparation of the venue and clearing away after the concert.

7 Concert Dress - PLEASE OBSERVE THESE RULES STRICTLY

Our concert dress rules are available in the "Concert Etiquette" document on the website, on the Downloads page.

8 Concert Discipline

- a) After any announcement in the place where we assemble, we move to our concert places and sit in our place on the stage. Watch for the sign from the nominated person at the front of the choir;
- b) After the Chairman's welcome, we all rise together on the entry of the MD and soloists;
- c) We do not applaud soloists on initial entry. We do not applaud at any time when we are standing, either at the end of a piece or when we have been brought to our feet by the MD. On these occasions we are part of the ensemble receiving applause;
- d) We may applaud soloists when we are sitting.

9 Tickets for Concerts

Concerts are very expensive to stage and we rely heavily on members selling tickets. Please see the "Downloads" section of the website for more information about how we support members to sell tickets.

We very much hope that you will enjoy singing with Swindon Choral Society. If you have any queries, please contact Suzanne Bullimore, Membership Secretary.

suzannebullimore62@gmail.com