

Nantwich Choral Society

Registered by the Charity Commission: Registration No. 516572

You are warmly invited to join this thriving Society which has been in existence since 1972. It started as an evening class and has gone from strength to strength since then. We engage professional musicians to lead the choir in rehearsal and performance. Both our Music Director, John Naylor, and our Accompanist, Simon Russell, enjoy working with an enthusiastic choir. Our repertoire is very diverse to satisfy both our audience and our members. Some works are quite familiar, others are more challenging.

Rehearsals

We meet during school term-time on Wednesdays between 7.30pm and 9.30pm, normally in the Methodist Church, Hospital Street, Nantwich, but currently (November 2021) we are meeting in St Mary's church Nantwich. We ask all members to follow strict covid guidelines, including taking a lateral flow test on the day of the rehearsal. Details can be found on our website.

Subscriptions

The annual subscription is due in September after the AGM. The current membership fee (2021-2022) is £90 and has remained at that level for some years. New members have the first term free, and existing members can choose to pay termly if they so wish. The Society benefits significantly from gift aid on subscriptions. Subscriptions can be gift-aided to the Society if you are a UK tax payer; the Treasurer can supply you with the relevant form. If you are not a UK tax payer please still make a nil return as this is helpful for the Treasurer's records.

Annual programme

We perform 3 or 4 concerts a year: Autumn, Christmas, Spring and usually one in summer. In addition we run a singing workshop day (usually in early October) and an annual 'Come and Sing' event early in the spring. The summer break is taken from after the summer concert, in June, to the beginning of September.

Members are expected to take part in all concerts, which of course means attending as many rehearsals as possible. If a member has missed a significant number of rehearsals but still wishes to sing in a concert and feels they are fully familiar with the music, the Music Director will decide if they may sing or not. Members sometimes elect to miss a concert because of other commitments. In this case, please inform the Membership Secretary and note that there will be no re-fund of subscription.

Concert Dress

Each member is responsible for their uniform which is normally:-

- Ladies: full length black skirt or trousers and long-sleeved black top, plus optional black jacket or cardigan if cold, or a full-length black dress with long sleeves; black hosiery and shoes. Please note that 'full-length' means to the floor or the top of the feet, not mid-calf.
- Gentlemen:- black dinner jacket with black trousers, white shirt, black socks and shoes; or if instructed by the Concert Manager, black trousers, shoes and black shirt which will be worn open necked. This latter alternative is usually for the summer concert.

For concerts you will also need a plain black folder to hold the music. Such folders can be purchased from any good stationery store.

Safety

Usually at concerts the choir performs in a limited space on temporary staging. For your own safety please take care, especially when moving around, and heed instructions about safety and evacuation procedures from the Concert Manager and Chairman. If you have mobility problems e.g. with steps, special arrangements can be made: please speak to the Concert Manager or Chairman about this.

Scores

Our Librarian secures scores on loan for most concerts at no additional charge. There are however a couple of exceptions. You will be required to have your own Messiah score (Watkins Shaw edition) and Carols for Choirs, preferably the white book, but if you already have the 3 individual books (orange, blue and green) they are acceptable. Scores on loan must be treated with respect and returned promptly after concerts. If your loan copy becomes lost or damaged you will have to pay the cost of replacement. You may write on scores with a soft pencil, and when possible your marks should be erased before returning your score. Prompt return is, however, more important than erasing marks.

Social Events

There is usually a social gathering after concerts, and occasionally larger events which will be publicised beforehand.

Exchange Visits

The choir is twinned with the Ensemble Vocale Arpège de Macon, and the two choirs occasionally make exchange visits, which are not obligatory and involve only those members who want to take a trip abroad and sing in each other's concerts. There may also be exchanges with other choirs from time to time, although there are no plans at the time of writing.

Fundraising and Easyfundraising

Subscriptions and Ticket sales do not cover the costs of our concerts. In addition to seeking out grants and sponsorship from local and national sources, we raise funds

wherever we can. At rehearsals there is a weekly raffle and water and juice are on sale. Individual members sometimes bring in items such as plants, second-hand books, jewellery and greetings cards for sale. We run a small lottery called the '200 Club' which currently costs £20 a year, with 2 monthly cash prizes drawn on the first Wednesday of each month. In addition, we run an annual raffle for the audience and choir members at the Christmas concert. Together all these things raise a useful sum of money for the society' funds.

The society is registered with easyfundraising.org.uk and Amazon Smile. You can raise money for NCS at no cost to yourself by buying online from your selected retailer, insurer, hotel or airline (e.g. Amazon, John Lewis. Marks and Spencer, most major supermarkets, Expedia, TUI, Qatar Airways etc.) through Easyfundraising. A full list of participating retailers is available on the Easyfundraising website. Even if your purchase only raises a penny or two, remember that pennies add up over time. If you shop online at all, please give serious consideration to registering for this scheme: there is a link to it in the members' area of the society's website, or you can just google Easy fundraising and go straight to their website and follow their very clear instructions to set yourself up as a donor.

I hope this has given you a flavour of what the society is about, and I very much hope that you will consider joining us.

Graham Harbage

Chairman