

TRING CHORAL SOCIETY

Information for New Members

The earliest records we have of Tring Choral Society date back to 1894. The Society flourished after the Second World War under the direction of John Lowdell and Roland Stevens. Since 1974, its success has continued under the direction of Colin Stevens. The present strength of the Society is between 70 and 90 voices.

Whilst the Society focuses principally on the established classical choral repertoire, it has, from time to time, commissioned new works. The Society also, on occasions, joins with other Choral Societies and Schools to perform major works, at such venues as the Royal Albert Hall and the Royal Festival Hall, and has undertaken concert trips abroad.

We are a friendly Society where enthusiasm and commitment are valued, as well as musical prowess. As permitted under the Society Rules, members are, very occasionally, called upon by the Musical Director to demonstrate their musical ability.

The Society has an enviable local reputation for the consistently high quality of its concerts. Professional soloists are always engaged, and the Society enjoys the support of an orchestra of professional musicians to accompany its performances. The weekly rehearsals, under Colin Stevens' direction, are a well-balanced blend of discipline and informality: demanding, but enjoyable.

There are three regular concerts a year: at Christmas, Easter and one in the summer, with some additional events for special occasions. The Church of St. Peter and St. Paul in the centre of Tring is the usual concert venue. The Society also holds regular social events for members, partners and friends.

The Society is run by a Management Committee of eight members, seven of whom have to stand for election every year at the Annual General Meeting (A.G.M.).

The current committee comprises:

Chairman	Robert Allnut	Tel: 01442 873075
Musical Director	Colin Stevens	Tel: 01442 822520
Secretary	Zoe Hill	Tel: 01494 758191
Membership Secretary	Margaret Collier	Tel: 01296 660406
Treasurer	Mary Haywood	Tel: 01442 825625
Librarian	Jane Legg	Tel: 01442 398101
Concert Manager	Tony Mackinder	Tel: 01442 824358
Publicity Secretary	Katie Hughes	Tel: 01442 890727

Membership is open to anyone over the age of 18 and, at the discretion of the Society's Management Committee, to people who are under 18. The Society encourages and supports young members by offering free subscription to those under the age of 30, and other financial incentives. A membership form must be completed immediately on joining, or re-joining, and given to the Membership Secretary.

Rehearsals

The Membership Secretary is responsible for keeping a rehearsal attendance record, because the Society attaches great importance to regular attendance as a pre-requisite both to enjoyable rehearsals and to polished performances. The Society's ambitious programmes necessitate a positive attitude to rehearsals, and prospective members should be prepared to commit to "Monday night is choral night"! During the season (September to July), rehearsals are held on Monday evenings, at the Baptist Church,

Akeman Street, Tring commencing at 8pm sharp. Any changes to this arrangement are announced at the preceding rehearsal. Members attending less than 60% of rehearsals for a particular concert may be asked, at the discretion of the Musical Director, not to participate in that concert.

Please notify the Membership Secretary if you are unable to (i) attend rehearsals (ii) sing in the concert, or (iii) if it is your intention to resign from the Society. Please also inform the Membership Secretary if you are aware of the temporary indisposition of other members, so that our good wishes can be sent.

Subscriptions

Subscriptions are due as from the date of the A.G.M. (usually late September) and by 31st October at the latest. The annual fee is currently £110, with no concessions, but free membership for those under 30 years of age. All existing members are requested to pay for the year, *even if they may miss the first, or a subsequent term during the year*. The names of those who have subscribed by the due date will be included in the concert programmes for the season. New members will be offered a 3 week “taster” free of charge, after which subscriptions will become payable. Those who join partway through the season will have the subscription fee adjusted pro-rata – currently £80.00 for those new members joining in the Spring term and £60.00 for those joining in the Summer term. The Society’s Management Committee is responsible for proposing the subscription rates, and these are approved at the A.G.M. As a registered charity, the Society can benefit from payment of your subscription using the government’s Gift Aid Scheme. Please ask the Treasurer about this.

Music

Sheet music and musical scores are provided for each member as necessary. All members are expected to meet the cost of hire or purchase. Please note that this cost is not included in the annual subscription. Please ensure that hired copies are returned promptly after concerts, as requested by the Librarian. All pencil markings must be removed from hired copies before being returned. A black music folder is required for performance, and this can be purchased from the Librarian at a cost of £4.

Performances

A final rehearsal is held during the afternoon of concert days, at the Church of St. Peter and St. Paul. Dress for concert performances is as follows:

Ladies: Long sleeved (minimum three quarter length) **black blouse with collar** (or at least up to the neck) and **long black skirt** (mid-calf minimum length) with black tights **or smart black trousers. Black shoes.**

Gentlemen: Black dinner suit, white shirt, black bow tie and black shoes.

All members are expected to promote the Society through publicising concerts to family, friends and neighbours. The Publicity Secretary will issue all members with 3 tickets to sell, prior to each concert, and everyone is encouraged to sell more!

Further Information

Members will be reminded of Society rules and other information, such as details of social events (quiz evenings, barbecues and organised walks, for example) in the newsletter produced each term. There is also a Choral Society website, which can be found at www.tringchoral.org.uk and a Facebook page. The website is regularly updated with news about the Society.