



Choir History

The choir was founded in 1983 for parents, staff and friends of Wycliffe College. Although many of its current members have no direct connection with the College, it retains strong links. The conductor is Christopher Swain, Wycliffe's Director of Music until July 2008. On his retirement, the choir re-formed as an independent society with charity status. The choir has always aimed to be friendly and inclusive; it does not require members to audition.

Concerts

We usually do two concerts a year. They take place in Wycliffe College Chapel on Sunday evenings in late November and in May, normally with orchestral accompaniment. There is always a rehearsal with the orchestra and soloists on the afternoon of the concert and the choir is asked to arrive by 1.45pm for a 2.00pm start or 2.15pm for a 2.30pm start. There is usually a convivial get together after the concert for choir and friends.

Rehearsals

These are held on Tuesday evenings from 7.30pm to 9.15pm with a half-time break for socialising. The season runs from September to May with breaks for half terms, Christmas and Easter. They usually take place in the Performing Arts Centre of Wycliffe Preparatory School, except for the last two before a concert, which are held in Wycliffe College Chapel. Please make sure you tick the register for your voice part on arrival each week.

Accompanist

Our accompanist this season is James MacDowall-Scott who is the Director of Music at All Saints Church, Cheltenham

Scores

These are provided free of charge, courtesy of Gloucestershire Library Service and are issued for the rehearsal period. Please look after your scores and keep them in the numbered folder supplied, as this helps the librarians keep track of them. Only make markings with a soft pencil (2B or softer). It is very helpful if you can erase any superfluous markings as we go along, to cut down on the amount of rubbing out required at the post-concert Erasing Party. For the concert, you will be provided with a folder to put your scores in, so that we look professional. If you have to stop coming for any reason, please return your scores as soon as possible to the Librarians whose contact details are on the inside of the folder.

Practice Aids

Recordings of your voice part played on an instrument are available for purchase from ChoraLine, direct (www.choraline.com, music@choraline.com) or through the society, at a discounted rate. This is an excellent way to learn your part. Another way, via the internet, can be found on the John Fletcher Music website (johnfletchermusic.org).

Ticket sales

Concerts are expensive to put on and to minimise our losses, we need to sell tickets. Before each concert, members are given some tickets to sell. Please do your best to sell those and as many more as you can. That way, we can be sure of a good audience and keep the subscription cost down.

Concert Dress

The usual concert dress is:

Ladies

Black blouse or top with $\frac{3}{4}$ to full length sleeves

Black full-length skirt or trousers

Black Jacket optional in cold weather

Men

Dinner jacket and trousers

White shirt

Black bow tie

Communications

We use e-mail as the main route of communication, so please make sure that we have your current e-mail address. If you do not have access to e-mail, please let the Membership Secretary know that you need to receive information on paper. There is a lot of useful information to be found on the website at www.wycliffechoralsociety.org.uk. If you need to know something, please look there first, but if you need to, you are always welcome to contact one of the officers.

Subscriptions

The full annual subscription is £100, payable at the start of the year in September; there is a reduced rate for students of £10. If you wish, you may pay in two instalments, one at the beginning of September, the second at the beginning of January. Newcomers are welcome to attend rehearsals in September to see how they get on before committing to join. There is a welcome party for new members following a shortened rehearsal on the last Tuesday of September or the first Tuesday of October.

The Financial year runs July to June and the AGM is generally held in December, often combined with a Christmas social.

Payments

If possible, please make payments direct to the Society's bank. The details are:

Account:	Wycliffe Choral Society	Sort code:	40-52-40
Bank:	CAF Bank	Account number:	00022080

These details should be used for all payments for subscriptions, tickets, social events etc. To identify your payment, please include a reference; this should include something brief to identify what it is for ("Subs", "Tickets", "Social" etc.) followed by your last name followed by your first name (as much of them as will fit). Please also e-mail the details to the treasurer.

If you prefer to pay by cheque, make it payable to Wycliffe Choral Society and hand it to the Membership Secretary, ticket seller or event organiser as appropriate.

Who's Who (as at September 2023)

Committee

Officers

Nigel Baldwin	Chairman (Safeguarding, complaints)
Rosemary Robinson	Secretary (Safeguarding)
John Cooper	Treasurer

Members

Sharon Brown	
Geoff Hudson	
Gill Martin	
Katie Poole	Assistant Treasurer and Membership Secretary
Colin Rudall	

Ex-officio

Christopher Swain	Musical Director and Conductor
Gemma Russell	School Liaison

Librarians

Sharon Brown	Christine Brown	Sue Charlton
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Sectional representatives

There is one for each voice part; they should be able to help you with any queries.

Soprano section	Tba	Tenor section	Tba
Contralto section	Tba	Bass section	Patrick Marks

Volunteers

Our volunteer officers and committee do an excellent job in running a successful and vibrant choir, but they do need help. Members are encouraged to consider any areas in which they feel able to offer support, so that we can have a list of volunteers to call upon as required. If you think that you may be able to help, please speak to Nigel Baldwin, the Chairman, or any member of the committee.

South Cotswold Big Sing Group

The Society belongs to this local association of choirs. Its main aim is combining together to perform large works that are too big and expensive for individual choirs.

Current plans include:

Friday 12th July 2024 Concert in Gloucester Cathedral

Hymn of Jesus – Holst and *Gloria* – *Poulenc*

Saturday 21st June 2025 Concert in Gloucester Cathedral

Te Deum – *Berlioz*, *Alto Rhapsody* – *Brahms* and *Messe des pecheurs de Villerville* – *Faure*

For more information go to <http://www.sccg.info/>

Concert Programme for 2023-24

Sunday 26th November 2023 at 7pm in Wycliffe College Chapel

Messiah - Handel

Saturday 9th December 2023 at 2.30pm in St Mary's Church, Painswick

Messiah - Handel

Sunday 12th May 2024 at 7pm in Wycliffe College Chapel

Chichester Psalms - Bernstein, *Rejoice in the lamb* - Britten and

Zimbe! Come, sing the songs of Africa - L'Estrange

Rehearsal schedule for 2023-24

5 th September	Rehearsals begin in Performing Arts Centre
12 th September	Rehearsal in Wycliffe College Chapel
26 th September	Shorter rehearsal followed by Welcome Party for new members
24 th October	Rehearsal in Wycliffe College Chapel
31 st October	No rehearsal
14 th & 21 st November	Rehearsals in Wycliffe College Chapel
Sunday 26 th November	2pm – 4pm approx. rehearsal in Wycliffe College Chapel 7pm Concert; <i>Messiah</i> – Handel
28 th November	7.30 pm Annual General Meeting followed by Short Rehearsal in Performing Arts Centre
5 th December	7.30pm Rehearsal in St Mary's Church, Painswick
Saturday 9 th December	2.30pm in St Mary's Church, Painswick Concert; <i>Messiah</i> – Handel
9 th January	Rehearsals resume
20 th February	No rehearsal
26 th March & 2 nd April	No rehearsals
9 th April	Rehearsal in Wycliffe College Chapel
30 th April & 7 th May	Rehearsals in Wycliffe College Chapel
Sunday 12 th May	2pm – 4.15pm rehearsal in Wycliffe College Chapel 7pm Concert; <i>Chichester Psalms</i> - Bernstein, <i>Rejoice in the lamb</i> - Britten and <i>Zimbe! Come, sing the songs of Africa</i> - L'Estrange

Social events

There are a number of social activities during the year, some musical and others just social. Current plans include;

26 th September	Welcome Party for new members after short rehearsal
Saturday 30 th September	10am – 12.15pm approx. Walk in and around Frampton
Thursday 26 th October	From 7pm – social gathering at Stroud Brewery

