



Information for new members Season 2021 - 2022

Welcome to Eversley Choir!

We are delighted to welcome you to the choir. We hope that you will make new friends and enjoy our music-making. At the end of this letter there is a form for you to fill in and return to us.

Music Director and Accompanist

Our Music Director, who has a wealth of experience in working with singers of all ages and abilities, is Ian Jones. As well as conducting Eversley, he is Chorus Master of Cumbria Festival Chorus. We have welcomed Rob Rainford as our new accompanist from January 2022.

Rehearsals

We rehearse from September until mid-May on Monday evenings 7-9.20pm at Borwick and Priest Hutton Memorial Hall, Borwick Lane, LA6 1JP. Usually we have a 20-minute interval around 8.00pm for choir announcements and socializing, with tea and coffee available for a nominal donation. Choir members take turns to volunteer to help with setting up, serving and clearing away. Currently we have suspended refreshments and have a shorter comfort break at 8.00pm then finish shortly after 9pm.

Please sign in for each rehearsal; you will find the signing sheet for each voice part at the entrance to the rehearsal room. We hope you will attend all rehearsals, but we do understand that you may possibly have to miss one or two. In case of planned absence, please write A in the appropriate attendance register column.

We have name badges, which we wear to rehearsals. This helps members get to know one another, and Ian, our Music Director, finds them very useful.

If you are able we would be grateful if you could stack your chair at the end of the session. If, in addition, you are able to help with preparing and clearing the room for rehearsals, this will be much appreciated!

Covid

All amateur music organisations were suspended during the pandemic and we were delighted to restart regular rehearsals in September 2021 after a "Pre-Season Sing" on a Saturday in August.

We continue to have Covid mitigations in place for rehearsals including asking people to take a LFT on the day of each rehearsal, wearing masks when moving around the hall, spacing seating and increasing ventilation if our CO2 monitor suggests this is needed. Obviously people should not attend a rehearsal if they have symptoms or have been requested to self-isolate.

Music

We hire music scores for members. The cost is included in your membership fee. Please take care of your hire copy and return when requested. Mark your copy in pencil only. We will give you a folder to use as an outer for your music at concerts.

Concerts

We usually stage a large concert with orchestra in April or May of each year, a smaller scale concert in November, often with young musicians, and a Christmas concert. Please see our latest newsletter for details of events this year.

We count on members to take part in our concerts. If you are unable to perform, please mark the attendance register accordingly well in advance of the date and inform Ian.

Dress is usually all black for ladies and black tie for gentlemen, but this can vary.

We provide refreshments for our concert audiences for which your contributions will be welcome! Volunteers are also needed for setting and clearing up concert venues. Members of our choir take on the role of concert manager and they will be very grateful for your help.

Other musical events

In recent years we have hosted a "Come & Sing" event on a Saturday in February and choir members are encouraged to advertise the event to friends and family.

Every other year, Eversley Choir takes part in the Mary Wakefield Festival in Kendal, one of the longest established competitive music festivals. Our own contribution is generally to join with other local choirs in the non-competitive Choral Celebration Day, which takes place on a Saturday. We generally sing extracts from pieces we have recently performed or are about to perform at our concerts.

Social events

In the spring term we usually hold a choir supper after a shorter than usual rehearsal. Tickets cover the cost of supper and a bar is available.

Publicity and Audiences

Stay up to date by keeping an eye on our website (www.eversleychoir.org) and our Facebook page (Eversley Choir).

We rely on members to raise awareness of the choir and provide good audiences for our performances. We would be grateful if you could promote the choir with friends, family and your communities, for example by 'liking' our Facebook page (Eversley Choir). At concert times, we will be grateful if you can post leaflets and posters in your community and sell tickets. Income from ticket sales is vital to running the concert programme.

Subscription and fund-raising

The current annual membership fee is £100, payable in September. Alternatively, you can make two payments of £50, payable in September and in January, or pay by periodic Standing Order with a minimum monthly payment of £10, with all instalments complete by end of June. Cheques should be made payable to Eversley Choir or if you wish to pay by BACs please use these details –

Eversley Choral Union R/C1043202, Sort code 08-92-99, Account number 65414806
Please be sure to identify yourselves if using bank transfer.

If you are eligible, please Gift Aid your subscription; your £100 will then be worth £125 to the choir.

Subscription income by itself does not sufficiently cover the cost of mounting orchestral concerts and so we engage in fund-raising activities as well. If you have ideas and/or enthusiasm for helping with this, please do consider joining the fund-raising group by contacting Maggie, our chair.

Resources and support for singing

As you know, we do not hold auditions and so there will inevitably be a mixture of people in the choir: some with a lot of recent singing experience and some who may not have sung in a choir for some time (or even at all). Some music reading ability will be useful and the music we perform will require you to be able to hold a line in four-part harmonies. A 'good ear' for singing in tune is also pretty essential. There is a wealth of resources on-line for singers, including CyberBass and Choralign offering voice part rehearsal CDs and other learning tools. YouTube is also worth exploring. There are also many books and Apps (including the ABRSM Aural trainer) designed to develop musicianship skills such as sight-reading and sight-singing.

From time to time our MD offers additional group performance skills support, for example sight-singing tuition or sectional rehearsals before the main rehearsal begins.

Look out also for Voice workshops. Various organizations offer these and they are a fun, useful and often cheap development opportunity. Other options include singing holidays and private singing lessons, though these can be expensive.

We will offer each new choir member a "buddy" from their voice section who can provide support and answer questions.

Running/managing the choir

There is considerable work involved in running any choir and we are a registered charity with trustees. Whilst the committee (see below) is formally responsible for this, we rely on the involvement of other members as well, so please do come forward and also consider becoming a committee member! We have an annual AGM (first half hour of the relevant rehearsal) and offer regular reports on choir matters.

Please contact any member of the committee if you have ideas or concerns and we'll make sure it gets to the right person. Our current committee –

Maggie Mees	Chair and trustee
Ian Jones	Musical Director
Oliver Linton	Concert management, website and trustee
Rodney Ward	Treasurer and trustee
Judy Sharps	Publicity
Janet Clements	Orchestra and soloist liaison, and ticket sales
Liz Falkingham	Front of house co-ordination
Wendy Williams	Secretary, membership and trustee

Safety

Please take note of the fire drill on the noticeboard.

Thanks for joining Eversley Choir. We look forward to singing with you!

Eversley Choir New Member Details

NAME _____

Voice S A T B 1 or 2? _____

Email address _____

Address _____

Phone contact _____

Any special requirements? _____

e.g. mobility

Please return this form to Wendy Williams by email (wendyj2897@gmail.com) or at a rehearsal

Subscription: see above

Are you eligible to **Gift Aid** your subscription? Yes / No / Don't know (speak to Rodney)

I agree that Eversley Choir can store my data securely and to use it to contact me -

Signature

Date

For Committee use:

Subscription paid Full year/part year

Welcome letter

Folder

Name tag

Section buddy

Master list

Register

Email list