



## Information for new members Season 2023 - 2024

### 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, Ian Jones, has a wealth of musical experience and is also Chorus Master of Cumbria Festival Chorus. We welcomed Rob Rainford as our new accompanist in January 2022.

### Concerts

We usually stage three concerts each year including a large concert with orchestra, a smaller scale concert and a Christmas concert. We have an exciting programme for 2023/24 –

**The Creation by Joseph Haydn** will be performed in the wonderful setting of Capernwray Hall on **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March**. We will be rehearsing The Creation during September and October with an extra rehearsal on **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October, 10am – 1pm**. After a break to rehearse for the Christmas concert, rehearsals for The Creation will resume on **8<sup>th</sup> January** with extra rehearsals on **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February** and the morning of **2<sup>nd</sup> March**.

**Ave Maris Stella** is the working title for our Christmas concert to be held on **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December** at St Thomas Church in Milnthorpe. The major work in the programme will be Cecilia McDowell's Christus Natus Est with other shorter works by Grieg, Elgar, MacMillan and more.

**The Faure Requiem** will be the major work in our Spring/Summer concert on **Sunday afternoon 19<sup>th</sup> May** and will be held in a church setting locally.

We count on singers to take part in our concerts. If you would like to attend rehearsals but are unable to perform please let Ian know.

Dress is usually all black with a hint of red for ladies and gentlemen, but this can vary.

### Rehearsals

We rehearse from the beginning of 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 tea, coffee, biscuits and chat. Donations for refreshments go towards funding our major concert.

There is a signing in sheet for each voice part at the entrance to the rehearsal room. You will be given a name badge to help singers get to know one another.

Please stack your chair at the end of the rehearsal if you are able. If you are able to help with preparing and clearing the room for rehearsals this will be much appreciated!

### Respiratory infections and COVID

Please do not attend rehearsals if you have symptoms of a cough and cold and check an LFT if you think you may have COVID.

## **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.

## **Other musical events**

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

## **Social events**

At least once a year we have a choir social event with the rehearsal finishing early for refreshments, fun and chat. The next social event will be our last rehearsal before Christmas on 19<sup>th</sup> December.

## **Publicity and Audiences**

Stay up to date by keeping an eye on our website ([www.eversleychoir.org](http://www.eversleychoir.org))

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. We rely on choir members advertising and selling tickets for concerts. Income from ticket sales is vital funding the concert programme.

## **Subscription and fund-raising**

The current annual membership fee was £100 for 22/23 and will be agreed for 23/24 at our AGM this September. Alternatively, you can pay installments, 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 put your surname as the reference if using bank transfer.

If you are eligible, please Gift Aid your subscription.

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 Choraline 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 provide 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
Oliver Linton	Concert management, website and trustee
Rodney Ward	Treasurer and trustee
Alyson Holden	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:***

Folder

Name tag

Section buddy

Master list

Register

Email list