



Come and Sing with Us!

Information sheet for prospective new members

Welcome to Durham Choral Society! You will be aware that we do not insist on [require?] an audition. We do ask you to complete a membership form, and it is helpful if you use the space on the form to inform us of your previous singing experience. You are asked to sign an undertaking to return all borrowed music immediately after each concert, or earlier if you decide not to sing in the concert. Please regard the first four rehearsals as a probationary period, during which it will become apparent whether or not Durham Choral Society is for you, and you for us

Concerts

The society normally gives concerts two or three times during the season, which starts each September. Members are expected to attend no fewer than two thirds of the rehearsals for each concert. You are also encouraged to practise at home, and rehearsal tapes can be purchased for most works, which will assist in this. If you have attended insufficient rehearsals, please consult the conductor before the concert and accept his decision. Attendance boards should be filled in each week, so that accurate records can be kept. If you do not intend to sing in a concert, please tell the conductor as soon as possible.

Concert dress

Gentlemen: dinner jacket and trousers with white shirt and **black** bow tie, black socks with black shoes.

Ladies: long sleeved white blouse, with either a long black skirt or formal black trousers or a medium length black skirt worn over black tights. Shoes should be black. We are aiming for an effect of white to the waist, and black thereafter.

Ladies singing tenor are requested to wear a black jacket as well.

The cathedral can be very cold - especially in January- so appropriately coloured, warm, thermal underwear is recommended!

Music scores should be covered in matt black paper or put in a black book folder - the Society has some SPLENDID ones for sale.

Please, no plastic bottles on stage during performances.

Subscriptions

Annual subscriptions are fixed at the AGM, which is usually held in October. There are concessions for the unwaged --- pensioners, students and those on benefits --- and a reduction for married couples. New singers who join us during the season may be eligible for a reduced subscription. If you pay tax, please ask for a Gift Aid Declaration, which will enable us to reclaim tax. After the probationary period, your subscription becomes due, and you should ask the Membership Secretary for a copy of the Society's Constitution.

Rehearsals

Rehearsals take place at [Durham Johnston School](#), on, Crossgate Moor, Durham (Maps are available from [streetmap.co.uk](#)). They commence SHARP at 7 30 pm, but members often arrive early to socialise. They finish at 9 30 - 9.45, and there is a quarter-hour interval at 8.30, during which refreshments are available.

Music

Vocal scores are available, either to buy or to borrow. New members must give their contact details to the Librarian, and fill in a Registration Form before borrowing music. Music must be returned promptly. **If music is not returned, it becomes the responsibility of the Member to pay any fines which may be levied on the Society as a result.**

If you have any questions, please bring them first to your Section Leaders, or to a member of the committee. If all else fails, your next point of contact would probably be the Secretary, David Crookes. [secretary@durhamchoralsociety.org.uk] telephone 0191-384-5515).