

Nottingham Harmonic Choir

How to join the choir - Season 2021-22

Introduction

The Nottingham Harmonic Choir normally rehearses on Monday evenings from 6.45pm to 9pm (with a quarter hour break) from early September through to the end of the following May. Our usual venue is Nottingham Emmanuel School, West Bridgford but this is not yet available for the 2021-22 season.

We are very hopeful that the new season will commence as scheduled on Monday 6th September 2021 with the first rehearsal at The Church of the Good Shepherd in Woodthorpe (*start time 7.15pm; shortened rehearsal with no break*). We will be rehearsing Bruckner, Parry, Rutter and Ireland for a probable concert in November.

We welcome new members at any time. However, due to our Covid-19 protocol we have limited space available, so please do NOT attend on Monday 6th September. It would be helpful if you would **please let me know** what voice you sing (S, A, T or B) and **when you plan to first attend** (see contact details at bottom). I can then confirm if we have space on that date, what venue and start time and any other details. As we are expecting more people to attend than we can accommodate on any single night, we may be organising a weekly rota for rehearsals so that everyone gets the opportunity to take part.

We encourage new members to come and join the choir for three rehearsals to see what we are all about. If you then wish to continue singing with the choir we will invite you to attend a private audition with our Director of Music, Richard Laing. He will take you through some scales, a little sight-reading and a few aural tests. You will also need to bring a prepared piece (could be an aria from an oratorio or opera, an art song, a folk song, etc. – something that you feel you know well).

On your first week please arrive 15 minutes early. Please go to the “New Members” desk and complete the “Membership Application Form”. You will then be directed to the librarians who will provide you with hire music for a small deposit, typically £10. Please download and print your own copies of the Bruckner and Parry (see Music for concert November 2021). There should be someone on hand to welcome you, collect your completed form, introduce you to your section steward, and answer any questions you may have.

Covid-19 Protocol

Given the ongoing situation with Covid-19, we feel it would be prudent to maintain two-metre social distancing and reduce numbers at rehearsals. This is also the advice of Making Music, which is the organisation to which we are affiliated. We will not be asking for proof of vaccination, but we would strongly recommend that you make use of the freely available lateral flow tests on the day.

We know that there are multiple symptoms, dependent on the variant, which is why we will also ask that no-one attends if they feel unwell at all. Masks will be advised for entry to the building and whilst moving around, but it will be entirely up to the individual whether they decide to sing whilst wearing a mask.

Fees

Full annual membership fees for 2021-22 are £150 with a concession rate of £120 for those of pensionable age or claiming benefit. These are due when you have been successfully accepted into the choir. There are reduced fees for those joining after 1st January or after 1st April. Full time students are free. Members must be 18 or over.

Music for concert November 2021

From September, we will be rehearsing the following pieces of music which we plan to perform at the Albert Hall on Saturday 13 November. The format for this event is yet to be finalised.

- Ireland: *Vexilla Regis*, Stainer and Bell – Hire copies available
- Rutter: *Gloria* (entire work), Oxford University Press – Hire copies available
- Bruckner: *Ecce Sacerdos* – download from www.cix.co.uk/~neper/download/bruckner.pdf
- Parry: *I Was Glad* – download from www.cix.co.uk/~neper/download/parry.pdf

Music for Messiah and Christmas Carol Concerts

Members of the choir must have their own copies of the following music for our regular Messiah and Carol Concerts usually held in December. We hope to arrange a choir discount for this music with Windblowers in Nottingham.

- Handel: *Messiah*, Watkins Shaw
- Carols for Choirs volumes 1, 2, 3 and 5, Oxford University Press.

Venues

We start rehearsals on Monday 6th September at **The Church of the Good Shepherd**, Thackerays Lane, Woodthorpe, Nottingham NG5 4HT. *Rehearsal start time is 7.15pm*. Car parking is on nearby streets. There are bus services along Thackeray's Lane (NCT 25, 56, 57, 59) and Mansfield Road (NCT 25, 53, 54, 58 and Trentbarton Calverton).

At as yet an unknown date we hope to return to our regular rehearsal venue at **The Nottingham Emmanuel School**, Gresham Park Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham NH2 7YF. *Rehearsal start time is 6.45pm*. There is parking at school. Wilford Village Tram Stop is 10 minutes walk away. Bus services run along Wilford Road.

On occasions we may also rehearse at:

- **Beeston Parish Church**, Middle Street, Beeston, Nottingham, NH9 1GA. There are several car parks in central Beeston: off Commercial Avenue, off Station Road opposite Tesco and Tesco itself, amongst others. Beeston Centre Tram Stop is close to the church.
- **Nottingham High School**, Waverley Mount, Nottingham NG7 4ED. Parking is available at the school, entrance off Forest Road East. There is a tram stop on Waverley Street by the visitor entrance to the school.

Contact

Please let me know what voice you sing (S, A, T or B) and when you plan to first attend so that I can confirm capacity, venue, start time and any other details.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Michael Napier

Membership Secretary
Nottingham Harmonic Choir

Email newmembers@nottinghamharmonic.org