



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 2.15pm for a 2.30pm start. There is usually a convivial get together after the concert for choir and friends.

Concert Programme for 2017-18

Sunday 26th November 2017 at 7.30pm in Wycliffe Chapel -: Mendelssohn *Elijah*

Sunday 13th May 2018 at 7.30pm in Wycliffe Chapel

Programme includes: Britten *St Nicholas* and Vaughan Williams *Five Mystical Songs*

Rehearsals

These are held on Tuesday evenings from 7.45pm to 9.30pm with a half-time break for socialising. The season runs from September to May with breaks for half terms, Christmas and Easter. They 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

For several years we have been lucky to secure the services of the current organ scholar at Gloucester Cathedral as our rehearsal accompanist. Sometimes they are also called upon to take sectional rehearsals. This season we welcome George Gillow.

Tours

We have a tradition of tours abroad every two years, normally in the week of the late May bank holiday. In 2017 some 50 members of the choir went to Riga and previous tours have been to Malta, Krakow, Budapest, Segovia, Tallinn, Rouen, Bruges, Amsterdam and Paris.

Social events

There are a number of social activities during the year, some musical and others just social. Peter Hankins is the main organiser for these. Current plans include;

Saturdays 7th October & 10th March 10.00 – 1.00 Walk followed by optional pub lunch

Tuesday 5th December 7.45pm Annual General Meeting and Party in PAC

Sunday 4th March Brahms Requiem Singalong; CBSO Birmingham Symphony Hall

Tuesday 22nd May [provisional date] Summer Outing to Winchester Cathedral etc.

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 contacts are on the inside of the folder.

Practice Aids

Recordings of your voice part played on an instrument are available for purchase from ChoralLine, 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.

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

Subscriptions

The full annual subscription is £70, 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.

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

You will be given a personal reference to quote which will identify your payment. These details and the reference should be used for all payments, for subscriptions, tickets, social events etc. If you prefer to pay by cheque, it should be made payable to Wycliffe Choral Society.

Wycliffe Rehearsal schedule for 2017-18

5 th September	Rehearsals begin
26 th September	Shorter rehearsal followed by a Welcome Party for new members
Saturday 30 th September	9.30am – 1pm <i>Elijah</i> Workshop
24 th October	No rehearsal
14 th and 21 st November	Rehearsals in Wycliffe College Chapel
Sunday 26 th November	2.30pm – 4.15pm rehearsal in Wycliffe College Chapel
Tuesday 28 th November	Rehearsal of Christmas Carols for Stonehouse Goodwill
Saturday 2 nd December	Late afternoon – Carol Singing for Stonehouse Goodwill
5 th December	Annual General Meeting and Party
9 th January	Rehearsals resume
13 th February	No rehearsal
27 th March and 3 rd April	No rehearsals
10 th April	Rehearsal in Wycliffe College Chapel
1 st and 8 th May	Rehearsals in Wycliffe College Chapel
Sunday 13 th May	2.30pm – 4.15pm rehearsal in Wycliffe College Chapel

Who's Who (as at September 2017)

Committee

Officers

Nigel Baldwin	Chairman (Safeguarding, complaints)
Peter Hankins	Vice Chairman / Social Events Organizer
Rosemary Robinson	Secretary (Safeguarding)
John Cooper	Treasurer

Members

Katie Poole	Assistant Treasurer
Vacant	New Members
Vacant	Membership Secretary
Judith Morris	Social Secretary
Richard Pryce	Ticket Sales
Sheelagh Witcombe	Marketing
Donna Burns	

Ex-officio

Christopher Swain	Musical Director and Conductor
Gemma Russell	School Liaison

Librarians

Rosanne Jamieson
Val Nesbit

Sectional representatives

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

Donna Burns	Soprano section	Richard Pryce	Tenor section
Vacant	Contralto section	Patrick Marks	Bass section

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.

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.

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.

After Rehearsal drinks

Some of us adjourn to the Woolpack in Stonehouse for refreshment after the rehearsal. Well, singing is thirsty work! All welcome.

South Cotswold Choral Group

The Society belongs to this local association of choirs. Its main aims are coordination (to avoid concert clashes) and combining together to perform large works as “Big Sings”.

The Big Sing planned for 2018 is Berlioz’s *Grande Messe des morts*, to be conducted by Adrian Partington in Gloucester Cathedral on Saturday 14th July 2018. The rehearsal schedule is;

Tuesday 19 th June	7.30 - 9.30pm - Rehearsal at Wycliffe
Tuesday 26 th June	7.30 - 9.30pm - Rehearsal at Wycliffe
Saturday 30 th June	10am-4pm - Workshop with Adrian Partington at Crypt School
Tuesday 3 rd July	7.30 - 9.30pm - Rehearsal at Wycliffe
Wednesday 4 th July	7.30-9.30pm Group rehearsal with Adrian Partington at Crypt School
Tuesday 10 th July	7.30 - 9.30pm - Rehearsal at Wycliffe
Wednesday 11 th July	7.30-9.30pm Group rehearsal with Adrian Partington at Crypt School
Friday 13 th July	7.30-9.30pm - Rehearsal with Adrian Partington in Gloucester Cathedral
Saturday 14 th	2-5pm - Rehearsal with Adrian Partington in Gloucester Cathedral
Saturday 14 th	7pm – 9pm Performance in Gloucester Cathedral

There are also optional additional rehearsals on Thursdays 21st and 28th June and 5th and 12th July in Alveston Methodist Church to be taken by Steven Kings.

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