



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 1.45pm for a 2.00pm start or 2.15pm for a 2.30pm start. There is usually a convivial get together after the concert for choir and friends.

Concert Programme for 2019-20

Sunday 24th November 2019 at 7.00pm in Wycliffe Chapel - Haydn *Creation*

Sunday 1st December at 6.00pm in Stonehouse Methodist Church -
Choruses from Handel *Messiah* and Haydn *Creation*

Sunday 10th May 2020 at 7.30pm in Wycliffe Chapel - Beethoven *Missa Solemnis*

Rehearsals

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

Social events

There are a number of social activities during the year, some musical and others just social. Current plans include;

Tuesday 1 st October	After short rehearsal	Welcome Party for new members
Saturday 28 th September	10.00am – 1.00pm	Walk followed by optional pub lunch
Tuesday 3 rd December	7.45pm	Annual General Meeting and Party in PAC
Saturday 7 th March	10.00am – 1.00pm	Walk followed by optional pub lunch

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 contact details 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 or the first Tuesday of October.

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, make it payable to Wycliffe Choral Society and hand it to the Membership Secretary.

Wycliffe Rehearsal schedule for 2018-19

3 rd September	Rehearsals begin
1 st October	Shorter rehearsal followed by a Welcome Party for new members
22 nd October	Rehearsal in Wycliffe College Chapel
29 th October	No rehearsal
12 th and 19 th November	Rehearsals in Wycliffe College Chapel
Sunday 24 th November	2.00pm – 3.30pm rehearsal in Wycliffe College Chapel
26 th November	Rehearsal in Performing Arts Centre
Sunday 1 st December	4.30pm rehearsal in Stonehouse Methodist Church
3 rd December	Annual General Meeting and Party
7 th January	Rehearsals resume
18 th February	No rehearsal
31 st March	Rehearsal in Wycliffe College Chapel
7 th and 14 th April	No rehearsals
28 th April and 5 th May	Rehearsals in Wycliffe College Chapel
Sunday 10 th May	2.30pm – 4.00pm rehearsal in Wycliffe College Chapel

Who's Who (as at September 2018)

Committee

Officers

Nigel Baldwin	Chairman (Safeguarding, complaints)
Jennifer Lindop	Vice Chairman (Big Sing liaison)
Rosemary Robinson	Secretary (Safeguarding)
John Cooper	Treasurer

Members

Katie Poole	Assistant Treasurer and Membership Secretary
Donna Burns	Programme advertising
Richard Pryce	Ticket Sales
Jenny Thorne	
Tricia Lea-Lloyd	

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
Caroline Segelov	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.

South Cotswold Big Sing Group

The Society belongs to this local association of choirs. Its main aim is combining together to perform large works that are too big and expensive for individual choirs.

The Big Sing planned for 2020 is Mahler's *8th Symphony*, the massive so-called "Symphony of a Thousand", to be conducted by Adrian Partington in Gloucester Cathedral on Saturday 11th July 2020, as part of the Cheltenham Festival. The rehearsal schedule is;

16 th , 23 rd , 30 th June, 7 th July	7.30pm - Rehearsals at Wycliffe Performing Arts Centre
24 th , 27 th June, 1 st , 4 th , 8 th July	Various times - Rehearsals at Crypt School, Gloucester
10 th July	7.30-9.30pm - Rehearsal in Gloucester Cathedral
11 th July	2-5pm - Rehearsal in Gloucester Cathedral
11 th July	7pm - Performance in Gloucester Cathedral

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

Wycliffe College workshop

The College is organising a workshop on Faure's Requiem and is inviting our members to join their choir for it. The workshop is with Ben England and Sam Dressel (Voces8) and takes place in Wycliffe College Chapel from 11am to 4.45pm on Sunday 15th September. It is free and a packed lunch will be provided.