HORSFORTH CHORAL SOCIETY

GUIDE FOR NEW MEMBERS

# **About Horsforth Choral Society**

Founded in 1928, Horsforth Choral Society recently celebrated 90th anniversary and are passionately committed to inspiring and enlightening audiences with traditional and also less familiar repertoire. Horsforth Choral Society embodies the choral spirit, and invites you to join them on their vibrant musical journey. We welcome singers of all ages and abilities, and there is no requirement to have an audition. You do not even have to be able to read music, although of course, it is helpful.

Our current Musical Team consists of:

Matthew Lazenby – Musical Director

Matthew Collins - Accompanist

We meet during school/college terms on Monday evenings 19:30 - 21:30, currently in the Parish Centre of St Margaret’s Church, Church Lane, Horsforth, LS18 5LA.

New members are more than welcome to attend for two rehearsals without obligation, before they commit to paying subs and joining the choir.

Subs for 2023/2024 are £135.00 per year paid in September. ( If you feel you could pay more, or donate to the society, this would be very gratefully received).

We do not want anyone to be put off from joining the choir due to financial difficulties. If this would be a problem for you, please do not hesitate to have a confidential word with either the Chair, the Secretary or the Vice Chair, and we will endeavour to find a solution.

Membership is fluid, and members can join or leave at any time, with immediate effect.

We hope to perform a wide range of contemporary and traditional choral music over a wide range of genres, and we try to explore widely within genres to bring interest to our programmes and performances.

This will inevitably mean that some music will be unfamiliar and may not be to the personal taste of all members, but we ask that all members respect the programme choices of the Musical Team and the Committee and make a full effort with all our repertoire for the benefit of the choir and audiences.

This includes a reasonable expectation that you will review the music between rehearsals and practice as far as you can. This could include listening to the music online or via a CD and reviewing the score as well as familiarising yourself with your part, and singing, if you are able. This helps us to make the best use of rehearsal time and enhance our performance outcome.

CODE OF CONDUCT

While we do not want to appear too rule-bound, there are certain standards of behaviour that we would ask our members to respect both at rehearsals and concerts:

MEMBERS’ CODE OF CONDUCT

Members are expected to:

1. Be punctual in attending rehearsals, so that we are in our seats and ready to warm up at 7.30 sharp. This helps with use of rehearsal time and is for everyone’s benefit.
2. Members should commit to attending as many rehearsals as possible per concert – we are aware that personal circumstances mean that rehearsals sometimes have to be missed but we ask you to try to be as regular as possible. If you cannot attend a rehearsal, it is helpful if you can let the Chair or Secretary know as soon as possible.
3. Members should arrive focused on singing and be willing to co-operate fully and respond to the direction provided by the Musical Team during rehearsals and concerts. Members are required to bring pencils and eraser, and make notes in their music as they find necessary to understand the music, and as the MD directs them to do.
4. Members should understand that they are part of an ensemble which requires everyone to contribute appropriately, as part of the whole sound of the choir. Experienced singers are asked to support newer members/less confident singers and to understand the balance between giving a strong vocal lead and blending with the choir.
5. On occasion members may be asked to sing short solos or leads in the choir, this will be done in conjunction with the needs of the choir and is at all times the decision of the Musical Team.
6. Members will follow the directions of the Musical Director during rehearsal and performance and respect their decisions.
7. Rehearsals are working time, which is of necessity limited, so we would respectfully ask members to keep conversation on non-musical matters to a minimum, other than during the break, and only the music should be discussed during the practice itself – it’s fine to ask questions, and we would suggest that if you are struggling with a particular passage, please ask the Musical Director at the time. If necessary, ask for them to go over it with you 1-1 at the break time.
8. Each member has a duty of care to themselves and others, and should behave at all times in a mature, respectful, fair, safe and considered manner. Nobody should make derogatory remarks or jokes to other members that are of a discriminatory, intimidating or offensive nature.
9. The Committee is committed to safeguarding the wellbeing of all our members, Musical Team, volunteers and audiences, and any concerns should be reported promptly to the Chair, Vice-Chair, or Secretary, so that the issue can be dealt with promptly and sensitively by the Committee.
10. We are all ambassadors for choral singing in general, and Horsforth Choral Society in particular, and we should conduct ourselves in a way that reflects our values and meets high professional standards.

PRACTICAL MATTERS

The dress code for concerts is: Black shirt/blouse with long sleeves and smart black trousers/. We frequently perform in the cooler seasons of the year, and plain black jackets, cardigans and wraps may be worn. This does not apply to the summer concerts where smart casual summer trousers/skirts/dresses/tops may be worn.

Music: This will be issued at the start of the preparation for each concert. All music remains the responsibility of Horsforth Choral Society and should be handed in promptly at the end of the concert for which it has been used. ALL MARKINGS SHOULD BE MADE ONLY IN PENCIL, PLEASE DON’T USE BIRO OR INK.

Folders will be issued to all choir members and should be used at all concerts unless otherwise advised.

CONTACTS

Please raise ALL concerns via the committee members:

Chair: Heather Booth

Vice Chair: Anne Cherry

Secretary: Karen Croft

The Musical Team regret they cannot enter into correspondence about choir matters with individual members, and respectfully ask that any such correspondence is sent via the Chair and Committee.

PLEASE DO NOT USE HORSFORTH CHORAL SOCIETY EMAILS OR SOCIAL MEDIA FOR COMMUNICATIONS ABOUT ANYTHING EXCEPT MATTERS PERTAINING TO HORSFORTH CHORAL SOCIETY AND ITS ACTIVITIES.