



### **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.

### **Rehearsals**

These are held on Tuesday evenings from 7.30pm to 9.15pm with a 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. This is important in case of an unlikely emergency such as a fire, when a register will be checked at the assembly points, which for rehearsals in both the PAC and the Chapel are the nearby lawns.

### **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 ChoraLine, direct ([www.choraline.com](http://www.choraline.com), [music@choraline.com](mailto: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 ([johnfletchermusic.org](http://johnfletchermusic.org)).

### **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.

## Concert Dress

The usual concert dress is:

### *Ladies*

Black blouse or top with ¾ 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

## Communications

We use email as the main route of communication, so please make sure that we have your current email address. If you do not have access to email, 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.wycliffechoral.org.uk](http://www.wycliffechoral.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.

## Subscriptions

The full annual subscription is £100, 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

These details should be used for all payments for subscriptions, tickets, social events etc. To identify your payment, please include a reference; this should include something brief to identify what it is for ("Subs", "Tickets", "Social" etc.) followed by your last name followed by your first name (as much of them as will fit). Please also e-mail the details to the treasurer.

If you prefer to pay by cheque, make it payable to Wycliffe Choral Society and hand it to the Membership Secretary, ticket seller or event organiser as appropriate.

## Sponsors, Patrons and Friends

We are most grateful to those who support the society in this way. You can become a Sponsor by contributing £100 or more, a Patron by contributing £50 or more and a friend by contributing £10 or more. For details, please contact Rosemary Robinson:

[chairman@wycliffechoral.org.uk](mailto:chairman@wycliffechoral.org.uk) or 07563 235625

## **Who's Who** (as at September 2024)

### **Accompanist**

James MacDowall-Scott who is the Director of Music at Pershore Abbey

### **Committee**

#### **Officers**

Rosemary Robinson	Chairman (Safeguarding, complaints)
Colin Rudall	Vice Chairman
Alan Chambers	Treasurer
Sam Tolley	Secretary

#### **Members**

Christine Brown	
Sharon Brown	
Geoff Hudson	
Gill Dickinson	
Katie Poole	Assistant Treasurer and Membership Secretary

#### **Ex-officio**

Christopher Swain	Musical Director and Conductor
Gemma Russell	School Liaison

#### **Librarians**

Sharon Brown	Christine Brown	Sue Charlton
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#### **Sectional representatives**

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

Soprano section	Rosanne Jamieson	Tenor section	Geoff Hudson
Contralto section	Val Nesbitt	Bass section	Nigel Baldwin

### **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 Rosemary Robinson, the Chairman, or any member of the committee.

### **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.

Current plans include:

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2025 – Cheltenham Festival Concert in Gloucester Cathedral

*Te Deum – Berlioz, Alto Rhapsody – Brahms and Messe des pecheurs de Villerville – Faure*

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

## Concert Programme for 2024-25

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 7pm in Wycliffe College Chapel

*Nelson Mass* - Haydn, Requiem – Rutter

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at 7pm in Wycliffe College Chapel

*St John Passion* - J.S. Bach

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2025: Choral Evensong (details tbc)

## Rehearsal schedule for 2024-25

3 <sup>rd</sup> September	Rehearsals begin in Performing Arts Centre
24 <sup>th</sup> September	Shorter rehearsal followed by Welcome Party for new members
22 <sup>nd</sup> October	Rehearsal in Wycliffe College Chapel
29 <sup>th</sup> October	No rehearsal
12 <sup>th</sup> & 19 <sup>th</sup> November	Rehearsals in Wycliffe College Chapel
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> November	2pm – 4pm approx. rehearsal in Wycliffe College Chapel 7pm Concert: <i>Nelson Mass</i> - Haydn, Requiem – Rutter
3 <sup>rd</sup> December	7.30 pm Annual General Meeting followed by refreshments and carols in Performing Arts Centre
7 <sup>th</sup> January	Rehearsals resume
18 <sup>th</sup> February	No rehearsal
25 <sup>th</sup> March & 1 <sup>st</sup> April	Rehearsal in Wycliffe College Chapel
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April	Extra rehearsal in Wycliffe College Chapel
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> April	2pm – 4pm rehearsal in Wycliffe College Chapel 7pm Concert: <i>St John Passion</i> - J.S. Bach
8 <sup>th</sup> , 15 <sup>th</sup> & 22 <sup>nd</sup> April	No rehearsals
29 <sup>th</sup> April	Rehearsals resume
18 <sup>th</sup> May	Choral Evensong (details tbc)
10 <sup>th</sup> June	Big Sing Rehearsals at Wycliffe commence
Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup> July	Big Sing Concert in Gloucester Cathedral

## Social events

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

24 <sup>th</sup> September	Welcome Party for new members after short rehearsal
Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup> October	10am – 12.15pm approx. Walk (details tbc)
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> October	From 7pm – social gathering at Stroud Brewery