

Rehearsal dates for 2026/7 season.

Mondays 7.45pm – 9.45pm
(with a short coffee break around 8.30pm)

2026/7	Event			
1	7 th September	Rehearsal	6	22 nd February
2	14 nd September	Rehearsal	7	1 st March
3	21 st September	Rehearsal	8	8 th March
4	28 th September	Rehearsal	9	15 th d March
5	5 th October	Rehearsal		Saturday 20th March
6	12 th October	AGM & Rehearsal		Rehearsal 2.30pm
7	19 th October	Rehearsal		Concert 7.30pm
	26 th October	HALF TERM		
8	2 nd November	Rehearsal	1	12 th April
	7 th November	WORKSHOP	2	19 th April
	SATURDAY		3	26 th April
9	9 th November	Rehearsal		3 rd May
10	16 th November	Rehearsal		BANK HOLIDAY
11	23 rd November	Rehearsal	4	10 th May
	Saturday 28th November	Rehearsal 2.30pm	5	17 th May
	30 th November	Concert 7.30pm		24 th May
1	11 th January	Rehearsal	6	31 st May
2	18 th January	Rehearsal		BANK HOLIDAY
3	25 th January	Rehearsal	7	7 th June
4	1 st February	Rehearsal	8	14 th June
5	8 th February	Rehearsal	9	21 st June
	15 th February	HALF TERM	10	28 th June
			11	5 th July
			12	12 th July
				Rehearsal
				Saturday 17th July
				Rehearsal 2.30pm
				Concert 7.30pm
				Date TBA
				Summer social

Term 1 – 11 weeks : Term 2 – 9 weeks : Term 3 – 12 weeks

Further details of concert programmes for 2027 are currently being discussed and will be available soon

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions are due termly or annually and should be paid in the first three weeks of term/year

Payments should be made by bank transfer to:

HSBC : Sort code 40 45 08 Account number 61132040

Cheque payments should be payable to Hillingdon Choral Society

Subscriptions in 2026 are £55 per term

November Workshop fee £15 and should be paid into the above account

CHOIR CONTACT : hillingtonchoralsociety@gmail.com

HILLINGDON CHORAL SOCIETY

Members' information



Welcome to Hillingdon Choral Society.
This booklet has information about
our rehearsals and concerts.
We hope you enjoy singing with us.



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Further information is available on
www.hillingdonchoralsociety.net.org
hillingtonchoralsociety@gmail.com



We are a friendly, non-auditioned choir who meet weekly, during termtime at Ickenham United Reformed Church. Our rehearsals start at 7.45pm and finish at 9.45pm. We have a short break around 8.30pm to enjoy a welcome drink and an opportunity to chat and get to know each other. As well as rehearsals and concerts, we enjoy social events together – meals out, quizzes etc.. We also get involved with local community event such as the Ickenham Festival and singing at local care homes. We sing a wide variety of music both sacred and secular, with piano, organ or orchestral accompaniment appropriate to the choice of music.

Weekly Rehearsals

At the end of each term we have a concert. To enable us to put on a good performance we need to rehearse together, learning our own parts and how they fit together with the other voices. It is therefore important that we attend rehearsals regularly.

Rehearsing at home

Ideally we should all be rehearsing at home in-between our weekly rehearsals at Ickenham URC, but not everyone has perfect pitch or a piano or keyboard to help them. For well-known works, rehearsal CDs can be bought for each voice (soprano, alto, tenor and bass) and they can also be found online, often for free. :

EG **Choraline** : **Cyber Bass** : **Choralia** : **YouTube**

If you have used other sites and found them useful, please let us know so we can keep this list updated.

Listening to a recording of the piece of music being learned is also helpful as it enables us to develop an overall picture of the music, how the chorus fits together with the sections sung by soloists. Familiarity helps us be more confident in our singing.

YouTube recordings of well-known works - Some are better than others, so always listen to a selection!

Music

Plain black folders will be used to contain music sung at concerts. To be held around waist height to ensure singers in the row behind are able to see the conductor.

Music Loans

Each choir member is responsible for the safe keeping and safe return of all borrowed music. Any annotations to the music should be made lightly in pencil and erased before the music is returned.

At the end of each concert boxes will be provided for the collection of all music

If you know you will be unable to sing at the concert, music should be returned by the last rehearsal of the term or the last rehearsal you are able to attend.

If you stop attending rehearsals or leave the choir, please return your music as soon as possible.

If you forget to return your music, it is your responsibility to get the music back to the librarians. For details of where to return the music, please contact hillingtonchoralsociety@gmail.com.

We do not currently charge members for music hire. However, this is subject to future change as the choir pays fees for the hire of the music for a specific period of time and incurs considerable charges for late return of copies.

CONCERT DRESS - LADIES	CONCERT DRESS - GENTLEMEN
• Full length black skirt or black evening trousers • Black long-sleeved top: not shiny, open-lace or velvet • Black tights/socks and black shoes • Discreet jewellery • Small black handbag (if required)	• Black trousers • Black jacket (where appropriate: dress suit or lounge suit) • Plain black long-sleeved shirt • Black socks and black shoes • Black belt or braces (if required)
ACCESSORIES Any accessories such as scarves, corsages, bowties etc., will be provided by the choir. Their use will be decided by the committee and will depend on the music being performed and the venue.	
WEATHER EXTREMES Any extra layers should be worn under the concert dress to ensure the choir looks smart and well presented. Concert dress in hot weather will be decided upon when required.	

CONCERT ETIQUETTE

We aim to give performances that look and sound as professional as possible. The following advice will help to achieve this.

Once on stage

- Acknowledge friends and family with a smile and not a wave
- If it is necessary to talk, keep your voice low
- Keep water bottles under seats and only drink between pieces
- Stand when the conductor enters and sit at his signal

During the performance

- Sit and stand smoothly and quietly as indicated by conductor
- Turn pages as quietly as possible especially during solos
- Watch the conductor
- Hold up your music/folder so that you can see it and the conductor
- Smile as you sing! It improves the tone of your voice

At the end of each piece or movement

- Stand absolutely still, watching the conductor
- Keep still until he lowers his/her hands or gives the sit signal
- Remain standing while the conductor takes the applause
- Sit when the conductor leaves the stage
- Choir may applaud while sitting but **NOT** while standing

PROCEDURE FOR CLOSING CONCERTS

- When the choir finishes singing, remain standing
- Conductor takes a bow and audience applause starts (hopefully!!)
- Conductor indicates soloists/accompanists to take a bow
- Conductor indicates Choir – still standing and not clapping – to take applause
- Conductor gives signal for choir to sit
- Conductor exits with soloists and accompanists.
- Seated choir may now start applauding enthusiastically
- Choir continues applauding, conductor returns with soloists and accompanists to renewed applause from audience
- Soloists/accompanists receive gifts from Choir members
- Conductor leads off soloists/accompanists
- Choir and audience stop applauding
- Choir leads off in rows as agreed at rehearsal
- Choir returns all music to boxes provided
- Clear up time!!

