

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

CHOIR MEMBERS' - CONCERT DRESS

Ladies

- 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)

Gentlemen

- 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.

Music

Plain black folders (available for purchase from choir, currently £8 each) will be used to contain music sung at concerts. Clear inserts to hold individual sheets of music are also available. Folders should be held around waist height to ensure singers in the rows behind are able to see the conductor.

Cold Weather

Any extra layers required should be worn under the concert dress to ensure the choir looks smart and well presented

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. If you stop rehearsing 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.

The choir pays fees for the hire of the music for a specific period and incurs considerable charges for late return of copies.

CONCERT ETIQUETTE

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

Before the concert

- Check your music – is it in the correct order, marked, paper-clipped and labelled? This will make it much easier to find during the performance
- Arrive at least 20 minutes before the concert starts.
- Take your place (arranged at rehearsal) in choir line-up to process onto stage.

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 still, watching the conductor
- Keep still until he lowers his hands or gives the sit signal
- Remain standing while the conductor takes the applause
- Sit if 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

Weekly Rehearsals

At the end of each term we usually 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. Here are some options:

Choraline

CDs of individual voice parts are available for purchase. Choir members can usually get a 10% discounted price. Orders are usually received within 48 hours. Staff are very pleased to advise or answer any queries.

Telephone orders 01285 64485 & 01326 567300. Website – www.choraline.com
email – music@choraline.com. Orders can also be made through Amazon.

Cyber Bass

The voice parts can be played through a suitable computer and are free. Many major works are available

www.cyberbass.com

Choralia

Voice parts can be played through a computer. This can be an individual voice part only or played with all voices and the chosen voice part accentuated.

A free service but donations are appreciated.

www.choralia.net

John Hooper's Midi Files

Various voice parts are available to play on computer or download to CD. This site also has links to other internet resources you may find useful.

www.learnchoralmusic.co.uk

YouTube has recordings of most works. Some are better than others, so always listen to a selection!

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 section sung by soloists. Familiarity helps us be more confident in our singing.

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