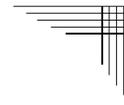


Royston Choral Society

Charity number 1090459

www.roystonchoralsoc.org.uk



Information for New Members - September 2023

Rehearsals

Royston Choral Society generally rehearses and performs most of its concerts in Royston Parish Church - St. John the Baptist.

Rehearsals are held on Tuesdays starting at 7.45pm finishing at 9.45pm.

We all know that practice is key to improvement and we ask that our singers commit to attending rehearsals whenever they can. We understand that some of our members work away sometimes, and some have other commitments that make attendance difficult from time to time. However, wherever possible, we ask you to give rehearsals priority as you plan your week. To sing in a concert everyone should attend a minimum of 60% of the rehearsals. If you know you are going to be absent for a few weeks, please let your Part Representative (see 'who's who') know you haven't gone for good!

There is more information about the society on its website <https://www.roystonchoralsoc.org.uk>. We particularly ask that all members read and take note of the safeguarding policy document found in the downloads section: <https://www.roystonchoralsoc.org.uk/downloads>

Membership Fees – 2023/24

The subscription for the 2023/24 season will be £160 for the year. The easiest way to pay that is online; the bank details are:

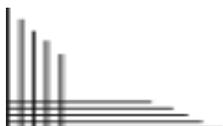
Account name: Royston Choral Society

Sort code: 30 97 16

Account number: 00202356

If you pay by online banking please also send an email to the treasurer (treasurer@roystonchoralsoc.org.uk) so she can account for it. Alternatively, you can bring cash or a cheque to a rehearsal. If it's cash, it's helpful if you put it in an envelope with your name on it, please.

If you'd rather pay by the term, the rates will be £65 for the first two terms you attend, and, if you're with us for a third term in the same season, you get a discount and it's £40 for that one.



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We are aware that things are tough, and worsening, for us all, and we want to keep RCS as affordable as possible. However, we also have to pay our conductor and accompanist a fair rate and pay for the hire of rehearsal venues. However, we do not want RCS to be unaffordable to anyone. The treasurer (Caroline Franks) has the committee's authority to come to an arrangement with anyone who has difficulty paying, for whatever reason, short or long term. We turn no-one away from choir on the grounds of affordability.

HMRC has agreed that half of our subscription fee is eligible for gift-aid tax relief. If you are a taxpayer we would therefore ask you to complete a gift aid form. This can be downloaded from the downloads section of the website <https://www.roystonchoralsoc.org.uk/downloads>

Refreshments

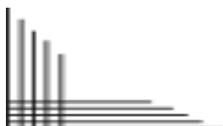
Each week, we provide refreshments at the break in the rehearsal, and there's a pot for contributions towards the costs. However, many of us no longer carry cash. If you would like to contribute to the cost of refreshments but you'd rather do that online for the term (or some other period) please do so to the usual account with the reference 'refreshments'.

Vocal Scores and Sheet Music

The Society owns some music and hires the rest. Hire cost is met from the membership fees.

Some people like to buy their own copies, and Caroline usually arranges to source those for any who ask. This way, members pay no more, but RCS benefits from any bulk buying discount we get, typically between 10% and 20%.

Finally just a reminder about hired music. To keep our costs down when hiring scores we have to return them as soon as the concert is over. So, if you are singing in the concert, please make sure you leave the music in the boxes provided at the end of the performance. Even more importantly, if you are not singing for some reason, please make sure you return your music to Caroline before the day of the concert.



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Register

Our part-reps bring a register to rehearsals each week and we ask each singer to mark their attendance in it. The register also gives precise dates for the rehearsals during that term. If you know in advance that you will be missing a particular rehearsal, we ask you to put 'A' (for absent) in the relevant column. There is also a column for you to indicate whether you intend to sing in the concert. This helps us plan the staging and balance the voices.

Concerts

Most concerts are held in Royston and the surrounding villages. Final rehearsals are held on the afternoon before the concert, with any soloists, orchestra or accompanist. Choir members are needed to help set up the staging in the church at about 1pm ready for rehearsal generally between 2-5pm.

For concerts with a large orchestra there is sometimes also a choir-only rehearsal on the Friday evening before the concert in the venue.

Concert Dress

We dress formally for most concerts:

Ladies should be all in plain (no glitter) black. Trousers or skirts are acceptable. Skirts should be knee-length or below. If a skirt is not full length, black opaque tights must be worn.

Sleeves should be 3/4 length or longer.

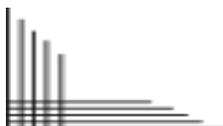
Men should be in black trousers and dinner jackets with white shirts and black bow ties. In the summer this is often changed to black long-sleeved shirt and trousers, with no jacket or tie.

Please no jeans.

100 Club

We run a "100 club" with monthly prize draws for £25 and £10 between September and June. The subscription is £20 per year. The 100 Club is organised by Julie Clements. You can download a form to join from

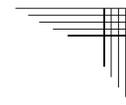
<https://www.roystonchoralsoc.org.uk/downloads>



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Who's Who - The Choir's Committee and Governance

Our AGM is held in September each year to receive reports and elect a committee for the coming year.

The current committee is :-

Huw Jenkins – Chair – (tel: 07855 311192

email chair@roystonchoralsoc.org.uk)

Sue Pegram - Secretary - (email secretary@roystonchoralsoc.org.uk)

Caroline Franks –Treasurer and Librarian (tel: 01920 822723

email treasurer@roystonchoralsoc.org.uk)

Andrew O'Brien – Musical Director

Heather Howard - Concert Manager

Jenny Leitch - Publicity

Carole Kaszak - Grants Officer

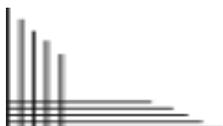
Penny Morgan

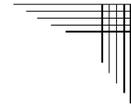
Tessa Rock

Fay Skinner

Part Representatives

Part	Name	Telephone	Email
Soprano	Brigid Hickey	01763 242475	partrep.soprano@roystonchoralsoc.org.uk
Alto	Sue Pegram	01763 838185	partrep.alto@roystonchoralsoc.org.uk
Tenor	Chris Lee	01763 245413	partrep.tenor@roystonchoralsoc.org.uk
Bass	Anthony Pigg	01763 245118	partrep.bass@roystonchoralsoc.org.uk





Details on this year's programme

Bach Mass in B minor - Saturday 25th November

One of the absolute classics of the choral repertoire we are very excited to be performing this work in November. We were just weeks away from performing it in March 2020 when the Covid pandemic hit so it is very good to be returning to this piece. We will be joined by some first-rate soloists and a fine chamber orchestra.

Christmas Concert - Saturday 16th December

Our Christmas concert is always a lighter programme with a mixture of carols and festive music for the choir as well as other carols with audience participation.

Verdi Requiem - Saturday 23rd March

We usually only do 1 concert each year with an orchestra. This year we are making an exception as we continue to celebrate the 50 years since Royston Choral Society's first concert. Always a popular work we expect Royston Parish Church to be very full (and noisy!) for this concert in March.

Summer Concert - Saturday 29th June

The content of our summer concerts varies. Some years we do lighter and shorter works. This year's will include Vivaldi's joyous Gloria.

Details about future concerts and other key dates are available from:
<https://www.roystonchoralsoc.org.uk/future-dates>

