

Seaford Choral Society

Music Director Job Description

The choir, currently consisting of about 75 voices, rehearses every Monday night at the Baptist Church, Belgrave Road, during a season that lasts at present from September until early July. There is no audition nor is there a requirement to read music.

There are three concerts per year, one in late November/early December, one around Easter and one in late June/early July. In addition the Society organises an 'Almost Instant' concert, open to singers from other choirs, on Good Friday. The Spring concert is a formal one, usually presenting an oratorio or other major sacred work. By its nature, this often means that St Leonard's parish church is chosen as a venue. The Autumn concert is less formal, often comprising a mixture of secular and sacred pieces including carols and other Christmas-related music, and this is usually held in the Baptist Church. The Summer concert is the least formal and least sacred of the three concerts, usually comprising a mix of music from all ages, including more modern pieces. Children's choirs often join us for the summer concert.

Over the last few years the programme for the concerts has consisted largely of the standard choral repertoire and mainly sacred music.

The atmosphere is friendly but members are well aware that to perform in public they have to work hard to achieve the necessary standard. We want to learn and challenge ourselves.

Our Aims

The Society aims to:

- Encourage a love of music and the joy of singing amongst the membership and wider community.
- Provide the opportunity for members to develop, nurture and hone their musical skills, whatever their existing level.

Our Values

Friendly, fun and fearless.

We are a friendly, inclusive choir that supports all members inside and outside rehearsals.

Rehearsals are inspiring and therapeutic with lots of singing. We want to leave with smiles on our faces.

We are adventurous in our choice of music - looking to raise the musical expectations of ourselves and our audience with new and unexpected repertoire. We want to continue to grow in confidence, improve our sight reading and be brave enough to sing out and make mistakes.

Duties

The Music Director is responsible for the overall musical standard of the choir and preparing the choir for concerts, usually three each year.

Principal responsibilities are to:

- Take rehearsals on Monday nights, during the season, from 7.15pm – 9.15pm at the Baptist church, ensuring the rehearsals are fun but focused. There is usually a break of fifteen minutes after an hour. Take any other required rehearsals by agreement.
- Encourage the choir to improve musical skills by incorporating lively warm up exercises, help with reading music and to give an insight into the techniques of breath control and voice production.
- In consultation with the Committee, plan future concert programmes/selection of music to suit the capabilities of the choir, normally with a three year horizon. Programmes could perhaps include works that are secular as well as religious and in English as well as Latin or other languages.
- Assist the choir librarian to obtain appropriate music.
- Prepare appropriate termly rehearsal schedules.
- Liaise with the accompanist regarding the schedule of rehearsals.
- Prepare weekly rehearsals, coaching the vocal and musical development of the choir to a high standard.

- Prepare all expected costs of orchestra, hired instruments, instrumentalists, and soloists to choir treasurer for approval of the committee for each term's performance.
- Book soloists, instrumentalists etc as agreed above.
- Liaise with soloists and SCS treasurer to facilitate performance payments in consultation with the committee.
- Prepare for and conduct the choir and hired musicians in dress-rehearsals and performances (concerts).
- Liaise with the concert manager as appropriate.
- Attend committee meetings (in person or remotely), in an ex-officio, non-voting capacity when appropriate.
- Liaise with the Deputy Music Director as appropriate, particularly with regard to cover in the absence of the MD.
- Continue the 'Almost Instant' concerts and singing carols in the town at Christmas or any other performances as may be agreed; suggest alternative ways of involving the choir with the community in the local and surrounding area.
- Maintain the friendly atmosphere of the present membership. Encourage younger members to join and keep the numbers up to the current levels.
- Understand the present makeup of the choir and suggest possible improvements that could be incorporated without losing the ethos of the present membership.

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