

KENDAL SOUTH CHOIR

Newsletter 23 – August/September 2021

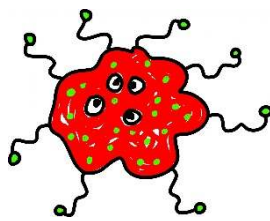
We will at last be meeting again to sing in September! But please note that, because Stricklandgate is not available for our first two rehearsals on 7th and 14th, these will be held at **St Michael and All Angels Church, Beetham, Milnthorpe LA7 7AL**, at 7.30pm.

Please arrive early to pick up music, which this term will cost us about £5 per member. It would be good if you felt able to make a donation towards the cost of hire of the copies. We must stress that this is an entirely voluntary donation that can be gift-aided, and is not compulsory.

We must use the Church's car park, NOT the pub car park. Turn right off the A6 approx. 300 metres past the junction with the garden centre and paper factory, then right again into the church car park.

Covid Precautions

At our rehearsals, the Committee will make sure there is a good through-flow of air, and a supply of hand sanitiser, though it may be a good idea to bring your own small bottle of hand gel.



We will also arrange for singers to be sitting in alternate seats and rows.

We would ask you not to attend if you have any symptoms or should be isolating, and to consider taking a DIY rapid lateral flow test before attending. LFTs can be obtained free of charge from some local pharmacies, from the government website

www.gov.uk, or by calling 119 from either mobile phone or landline.

A condition of our use of Stricklandgate Methodist Church is that we wear face masks when we are not singing, so please bring one to wear when walking around the building.

Geoff has agreed that anyone who needs to use the toilet may go out quietly during the rehearsal to avoid a queue at break time.

Please resist the urge to hug members whom you have not seen for a long time!

Our next concerts

Our Christmas concert will be held in St Thomas's Church on **Friday 10th December**, when we will sing *Navidad Nuestra* by Ariel Ramirez (in English!) and *Fantasia on Christmas Carols* by Vaughan Williams, together with some Spanish carols (in Spanish) and some audience carols. The soloist will be Christopher Steele.

In Spring we will give a concert of music by Haydn and Mozart, with a soprano soloist (yet to be decided). This will be on **Saturday 14th May**.

And on **Saturday 19th November 2022** we will finally sing *Mass in Blue* by Will Todd, plus *Feel the Spirit* by John Rutter – another very enjoyable piece. Joanna Forbes-L'Estrange will be the soprano soloist for both of these pieces.

The venues for these latter concerts have yet to be decided, as it is likely that St Thomas's will no longer be available.

Meanwhile, please make a note of all these dates in your diaries.

Social Events

Our next social event is a barbecue on **Sunday 5th September at 1.00pm**, at Arthur and Jean Robinson's home, Over Blease, Old Hutton, Kendal LA8 0LU.

The charge is £8 per person, and we need numbers by 29th August for catering purposes.

Other Events

Come & Sing *Messiah* at Lancaster Priory on Saturday 11th September, from 2.00-5.00pm, as part of their Festival of Song. It will be conducted by Don Gillthorpe, with soprano soloist Emily Robinson. Book your place (£6 singers and audience) at <https://lancasterpriory.org/concerts/september-2021-festival-of-song/>. Don says he would really love to see members of Kendal South Choir taking part!

Money Matters

Subscriptions

A reminder that the annual subscription recently fixed at £100 for the coming year is due at the beginning of the September term. For those of you who find it more convenient to pay by instalments the first payment of £50 is due at the beginning of this coming term with the balance due at the beginning of the January term. The easiest way to pay is by BACS to Kendal South Choir General Account, [REDACTED]. Please quote your full name as reference. Otherwise payment can be made at

rehearsal to Valerie who kindly continues to help the Treasurer in this way. Prompt payment would be appreciated.

Gift Aid

To comply with HMRC regulations you are reminded that not all of our subscription qualifies for gift aid. For those of you who need to complete a self-assessment return, the amount of subscription to include in the 2021/22 return is £93.

You are also reminded that changes in circumstances must be notified to the Treasurer. This includes change of address as well as a change that means you are no longer eligible for gift aid. Conversely a change that means you become eligible should also be notified so that a tax refund may be claimed.

Donations

We have been able to put on concerts with soloists and orchestra only because we have been fortunate enough to get substantial grants. The choir has also contributed as subscriptions and other receipts have exceeded non-concert payments and so contributed to the cost of concerts. That contribution is not now being made and may well influence the attitude of our sponsors.

Some members have in the past been generous enough to make a donation to the choir. If any member feels able to make a donation that would be very much appreciated and will help to continue the choir's performances.

Fund Raising and Social Events

None of the usual events were able to take place because of the Covid pandemic. However the lockdown was lifted just before the end of the choir's financial year

and enabled a new event to be held – a strawberry tea in the lovely garden of Dorothy's new house. The choir's grateful thanks go to her for hosting this event and to those who kindly provided the refreshments. It was blessed with sunny weather and 22 members enjoyed a lovely occasion which produced £238 for choir funds.

Please remember the book etc stall (from 21st September) and to use EasyFund-raising and Amazon Smile when you shop online – all very useful sources of funds.

Finance

The accounts show a deficiency of £1,523 which when adjusted for a refund of a grant paid in advance last year towards a concert which was not able to take place becomes a true deficiency of £523.

Because of the pandemic no rehearsals or concerts were able to take place, so the accounts include only a few ongoing items. The balance at the end of the year was a healthy £10,319, but if normal activities resume in September this is likely to be reduced to something like £7,000. You will all get a copy of the accounts, which have been signed off by the Examiner, with the AGM papers.

Annual General Meeting

Our AGM is on Tuesday 12th October immediately followed by our normal rehearsal.

We will be at least one Committee member short this year, as Caryl Wilson has left us to live near family in southern England, and the choir is unable to function properly without a full Committee. Please would you therefore think carefully whether this is a way in

which you could help the choir to have a successful season.

The Committee meets five or six times a year, at Castle Green Hotel in Kendal.

Section Reps:

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