

HEREFORD CHORAL SOCIETY

Conditions of Membership

Terms of membership

1. Entry to the choir is as the result of a successful short voice test given by the Conductor at a pre-arranged time. The vocal balance of the choir has to be borne in mind at all times.
2. As many rehearsals as possible must be attended in order to sing in the concert. This is normally a minimum of either 7/10 or 8/11 for the autumn and spring concerts but may be reviewed if the Covid pandemic persists.
3. All four Messiah rehearsals are compulsory; if a member misses one then inclusion in the concert will be at the Conductor's discretion.
Attendance at the piano rehearsal in the cathedral on the Monday prior to a concert is compulsory.
Members may not sing in the Saturday afternoon rehearsal unless also singing in the concert.
4. A break in membership of one year will trigger a re-audition.
5. Although members tend to sit in the same seats each week, no place is "booked", and the Conductor must be able to move people about if he sees fit. Remember to make yourself known to your voice clerk each week.
6. Rehearsals begin promptly at 19:30 and end at 21:15 (unless circumstances in the rehearsal dictate otherwise, or prior notice has been given).
7. All rehearsals to take place in Broadlands School hall unless otherwise announced.
8. Payment of membership subscription should be made to the Treasurer by the 1st week of the season. Non-payment will result in a concert ban.
9. Please look after the copy you have been loaned and ensure that you have a pencil at every rehearsal.
10. The final Monday rehearsal before each concert is essential and will take place on the concert platform in the cathedral. If you are unable to attend this for any reason, inform the Membership Sec. Lucy Hargrove (0845 463 3104) who will advise as to whether you may take part in the concert. If this is allowed you must arrange for someone to keep a seat for you.
11. Follow the seating plan if one is provided.
12. Do not arrive before 19:00; evensong does not finish until 18:15 at the earliest and at least ½ hour is needed to set up the seating. If you know you are going to be late arriving at this rehearsal, contact Lucy Hargrove on 0845 463 3104 before 18:00 as the cathedral doors have to be locked during rehearsals for security reasons.
13. **Concert Arrangements:** The Concert Manager will require help, both with the preparation for the concert on the Friday and in returning the cathedral to its normal state immediately afterwards. The Ticket Sec. will require help with ticket sales from 18:30 in the cathedral on concert days.
14. **Concert day rehearsal:** The rehearsal begins promptly at 14:00 as that is when we start paying the orchestra. The official end is 17:00, but the conductor usually releases the chorus well in advance of this. Please be on the concert platform at 13:50 ready to start.
15. Do not leave belongings on the platform after the rehearsal.
16. Remember to sign in with your voice clerk before the rehearsal begins. (This is purely a matter of your safety should an incident arise.)
17. Seating must remain as at the Monday rehearsal unless it is changed at the direction of the conductor. The Saturday rehearsal is compulsory for everyone and you will not be allowed to sing in the concert

if you do not attend this rehearsal. If you find yourself unable to sing in the concert for any reason, please inform the Membership Secretary.

18. **Concert Dress:** *Ladies:* long-sleeved, ankle length black dress or long-sleeved black blouse and long black skirt/black evening trousers. Black shoes. No flashy jewellery, coloured hair ornaments or décolletage as the audience find them distracting. *Gentlemen:* dinner jacket with white shirt and black tie. Black cummerbund if worn. Black shoes and socks.
19. Use the black folders provided unless advised otherwise.
20. Line up in the transept at 19:15 ready to walk onto the platform. Do not leave the platform again until the end of the concert. We try to restrict the interval to twenty minutes to enable the orchestra to return to their homes by midnight otherwise we may incur a penalty payment.
21. Stand upon the entry of the Conductor and the soloists. Thereafter, follow the instructions specific for each work.
22. Keep as still as possible when not singing. Do not make it obvious that you are sucking sweets or lozenges. Small bottled drinks are permitted on the platform but must only be drunk during the interval.
23. When the concert has finished, remove music from the folder and CAREFULLY place it in the box provided. If for any reason you are unable to attend the concert, please notify the Librarian, Frances Roper (librarian@herefordchoralsociety.org), as soon as possible and arrange the return of your score to her. Overdue or non-returned books incur financial penalties to the Society, which will be passed on to you.