

Musical Director Mark Griffiths
Chair Sally Moran

Dear Chorale Members

Our Christmas concert is on Saturday, 2 December at 19:00. Here is what you need to know if you are taking part in the concert. If you have further questions then do, please, ask Henrike, using her e-mail henrike@ntlworld.com or mobile (07952 948799).

Tuesday 28 November: rehearsal at St. George's Church starting at 19:45. If you do not already have a music folder you can collect one from Henrike that day.

Thursday 30 November: rehearsal at St. George's Church starting at 19:45. The concert seating stage will be up and chairs placed as for the concert on Saturday. If you can arrive early to ensure that we have time to check that everyone is comfortably seated that would be helpful. At the end of the rehearsal we will remove chairs as usual, but the stage will remain in place.

Saturday 2 December: **Rehearsal** at St George's Church 14:00–17:00. You should arrive by 13:45 in order to be seated and ready to start at 14:00.

We will start the rehearsal with soloist Emma Walshe and organist Ashok Gupta. For the second part we will be joined by the orchestra to sing through the Messiah.

Choir rehearsal ends at 17:00. You are welcome to stay in the church if getting home and coming back is not convenient. We expect that the orchestra rehearsal will be continuing, so please leave the stage area swiftly and quietly.

The church doors will be closed until 18:15. If you do want to come back earlier you need to make sure that Sally is aware and lets you in. You may ring her on 07710 752683.

Concert starts at 19:00 - please arrive no later than 18:40 by the South Transept door (not the main door). Expect the whole concert to run for a little over two hours including a 30 minute interval after the Messiah when wine and soft drinks will be available to audience and singers alike.

Running order

First Half: Highlights from Handel's Messiah

- Overture – orchestra. p.1
- And the glory of the Lord. p.11
- There were shepherds abiding in the field
Lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them
And the angel said unto them
And suddenly there was with the angel - all
Soprano solos. p.66-68
- Glory to God. p.68
- Rejoice greatly, o daughter of Zion –
soprano solo. p.73
- For unto us a child is born. p.55
- Behold the lamb of God. p.91
- How beautiful are the feet (version 1) -
soprano solo. p.149
- Surely he hath borne our griefs. p.98
- And with his stripes we are healed. p.102
- All we like sheep have gone astray. p.106
- Hallelujah. p.171
- I know my redeemer Liveth - soprano solo.
p.181
- Worthy is the Lamb/Amen. p.217

Second Half: Christmas Carols

- O radiant dawn (printed score)
- A babe is born (blue Carol book, p.4)
- O Holy night – with soprano (printed score)
- Good King Wenceslas – with audience (green Carol book, p.34)
- Lully, Lulla – with soprano (printed score)
- Star carol (blue Carol book, p.157)
- O little town of Bethlehem –
Recit and V1 soprano; V2 choir unison tutti; V3 choir harmony tutti (blue Carol book, p.138)
- O come all ye faithful – with audience (green Carol book, p.88)
- Jul, Jul – Encore, not in programme (printed score)

Dress

Women: Long dress, or skirt (ankle length) or smart trousers; tops with long sleeves – all Black. Small black handbags and discreet jewellery only

Men: Black dinner suit, white shirt and black bow tie

Concert Etiquette

Please enter St George's Church via the South Transept Door, not by the main door which is reserved for the audience.

Courtesy: During the concert, women may leave their belongings in the Lady Chapel using such chairs as may be available there. But please note: under no circumstances should we hang coats over the alter rails.

At 18:50 assemble in the North Transept (men) and Lady Chapel off the South Transept (women). Find your neighbours, left and right, from the afternoon rehearsal and line up to walk to the seats in sequence. Sit down immediately when you have reached your chair.

Take care moving around on the stage platforms.

When seated, please be quiet and still. Please do not take water bottles on stage.

We don't applaud when the conductor and soloist/s come on stage, but we can applaud them when they return to take their bow.

Stands / Sits: Please make sure you mark up your copies as directed by Mark during rehearsals. If you are not sure then please check with those around you to make sure what to do.

This concert has an interval. After the last "Messiah" number stand for applause, then leave the stage quietly and in sequence. Observe and follow Sally Moran.

Folders: We are using the black concert folders both in the first and second half. It is recommended that you leave your blue and green Carol books with your belongings behind the scenes and swap the Messiah book for the Carol books during the interval.

When the end of the interval is announced it would be appreciated if you could assist by encouraging your guests to return to their seats, then make your way promptly to the Lady Chapel (women) and the North Transept (men). We lead in as for part one of the concert.

As you know we are singing "Jul, Jul" as an unannounced encore. Please listen out for Mark's instructions on how this will be performed. After the final bow we stand and leave the stage quietly and in sequence. Observe and follow Sally Moran.

Return of Choir Score Books

Jo Groves will collect them **not on concert night, but on the Tuesday after**. Please make arrangements with a friend if you are not going to be there and remember to erase all pencil marks first. Keep your folders for next time.

Any problems or questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

Sally Moran
Chair, Beckenham Chorale



<https://www.beckenhamchorale.org.uk/>