



Welcome!

Beckenham Chorale is a friendly and welcoming mixed voice choir of about 70 voices led by our Musical Director Mark Griffiths, who joined us in 2016. We perform three concerts each season at St. George's Church, Beckenham, the hub of local music making.

Founded in 1960, we are known for our spirited performances of the great choral works, as well as an increasingly varied repertoire. Most of our concerts feature professional soloists and at least one concert each season is accompanied by a professional orchestra, the St Paul's Sinfonia.

In recent years works we have performed include: Britten - Rejoice in the Lamb, Rutter - Magnificat, Goodall - Eternal Light, Bach - Magnificat, Vivaldi - Gloria, Haydn - Harmoniemesse, Dvorak - Requiem and Beethoven - Mass in C. In the past three years we have joined forces with Coro London Chamber Choir (also conducted by Mark Griffiths) to perform Brahms - Ein Deutsches Requiem and Mendelssohn - Elijah.

In March 2020 our concert featured works by Jonathan Dove, Thomas Tallis, Judith Weir and four of James MacMillan's Strathclyde Motets. In June 2022 we celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with a stirring performance of Handel's Coronation Anthems, following this in 2023 with Mozart's Coronation Mass to celebrate the coronation of King Charles. Our 2023/24 repertoire included highlights from Handel's Messiah and Bernstein's Chichester Psalms sung in Hebrew.

In the following pages, we have provided some essential information about the chorale. Each voice section has a named representative who will support your induction. Our Membership Secretary, Jan Messeder (soprano), is also available to answer any queries and may be contacted on the number below.

We hope that you will enjoy singing with us for many years!

Sally Moran
Chair
Mob: 07710 752683

Jan Messeder
Membership Secretary
Mob: 07800 960390

Rehearsals:

Our Musical Director Mark Griffiths leads our rehearsals, which take place from September to June on Tuesday evenings between 7:45 and 9:45pm at St. George's Parish Church, High Street, Beckenham, BR3 1AX.

St George's Church is a three minute walk from Beckenham Junction rail and tram stations and is on several bus routes. Car parking is also available at the St George's Road public car park.

We ask that members arrive in plenty of time, so we can start rehearsals promptly at 7:45pm. We take a short break mid rehearsal but do not currently have facilities for making hot drinks so please bring any refreshments with you.

Subscriptions:

The Chorale's annual subscription for the full season is £225 (which includes the cost of music hire) payable in September by BACS.

New members will initially be asked to pay £75 for just one term, with the balance of £150 due when they join the choir.

There is a concession for those under 30 and for full-time students, who pay £112.50 per annum or £37.50 for the first term with the balance of £75 due when they join the choir.

We do ask established members to pay for the whole year's subscription in the autumn term as this greatly reduces the workload for our treasurer! However, if you would find it more helpful to pay termly i.e. £75 per term, please contact our Membership Secretary to discuss this. The same applies to those under 30 and students who would prefer to pay £37.50 per term.

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Please identify the payment as: BCSubs/your Surname

We also encourage our Members to Gift Aid their subscriptions, so please ask our Treasurer Elaine Ullmann (alto) for the relevant form.

Key committee members:

- **Chair:** Sally Moran (alto)
- **Secretary:** Jaki Moody (alto)
- **Treasurer:** Elaine Ullmann (alto)
- **Membership Secretary:** Jan Messeder (soprano)

Website:

We have an excellent website with a wealth of information about Beckenham Chorale:
<https://www.beckenhamchorale.org.uk/>

The password protected members' section of the website includes rehearsal dates, rehearsal tips and learning resources, as well as a members' gallery to help you put names to faces. Our Webmaster is Henrike Hawkins (alto).

WhatsApp:

Many members belong to our WhatsApp group **ChoraleBeckons** which allows for more informal communication between members. New members receive an invitation to join the group.

X (formerly Twitter):

Follow us on X: @BeckenhamChoral and join the conversation.

Ticket sales:

It is in all our interests to maximise tickets sales for our concerts, so please help by inviting your friends and family, via e-mail, through social media and by helping with our leaflet distribution. PDF and JPEG versions of our concert posters are sent to members via e-mail. We regularly tweet information about the chorale to individuals and groups. There is a marketing group to co-ordinate our publicity.

Fundraising:

Committee members are responsible for co-ordinating our fundraising which includes events such as a quiz night, wine tasting or an auction of promises. New ideas are always welcome as are offers of help with events.

One of the ways the chorale raises funds is through the 100 Club which holds a monthly draw at our rehearsals. There are cash prizes of £50, £25, and £10 with additional bonus prizes of £100 in June and December. The 100 Club annual subscription is £24 per person. If you would like to join, please contact Jane Dubeck (soprano) at one of our rehearsals.

Getting the most from rehearsals:

We want rehearsals to be enjoyable and productive for everyone, so here are a few pointers.

When you arrive at rehearsal, please sign the attendance register and if you know you are going to miss any rehearsals, do mark this accordingly. If you cannot attend or are unexpectedly delayed, please text the Membership Secretary, Jan Messeder (mob 07800 960390) to let her know. For security reasons the church doors need to be locked whilst we are rehearsing.

A pencil is a necessary tool at rehearsals - never be without one! Spare pencils are available near the attendance registers should they be needed.

Following each rehearsal, the Musical Director sends a note by e-mail to all members with his rehearsal comments and to let the choir know what we will be practising the following week. It is really important that between rehearsals all members try to spend as much time as possible working on their own voice part.

There are a number of learning resources available online for most of the works we perform. These include resources from Choraline, Cyberbass, John Fletcher Music and Choralia.

In addition the Musical Director will suggest recordings of the music for us to listen to.

Jan Messeder
Membership Secretary, Beckenham Chorale

July 2024