

From the Secretary :
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Music Director
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INFORMATION FOR SINGING MEMBERS 2015– 2016

Key dates and events

The Leicester Bach Choir's concerts this season are all at St James the Greater on **Saturday 28 November 2015, 5 March 2016 and 11 June 2016**. The Come and Sing day will take place at St James the Greater Church, London Road, Leicester, on **Saturday 23 January 2016**. Please put these dates in your diary now and check www.leicesterbachchoir.org.uk regularly for updates. Every singer makes a valuable contribution so please ensure your attendances are regular and notify the Secretary as soon as possible about expected absences from both rehearsals and concerts. Term begins on **Wednesday 2 September 2015 with a short AGM at 7.15pm**. This allows you to comprehend the astonishing levels of co-operation required to make choral concerts happen, to discover how you can support it all, and to thank the people who do things on your behalf.

Commitment to the choir

Membership of the choir implies a commitment to attend rehearsals, perform in all concerts, and to volunteer for at least one job per year – there are plenty available! Everybody needs to take responsibility for publicising the LBC's activities, recruiting singers (especially sopranos), helping on concert day and selling tickets. Extra singing and social events during the year broaden the choir's experience, forge relationships and raise money so we can afford the best possible soloists – we look forward to welcoming you, do come along.

Each week we ask you to arrive by 7.25pm so that rehearsals can start promptly at 7.30pm. Rehearsals and concerts are much more enjoyable for everyone when we can concentrate on making music, so please master the notes and words by the fourth rehearsal for each programme. Please don't talk during rehearsals unless absolutely essential as it distracts everybody. The break, choir socials and after-rehearsal drink in the Old Horse pub are much more effective ways to develop your friendships.

Rehearsals

Weekly rehearsals are normally from 7.30pm to 9.30pm on Wednesdays in the large hall at the back of St James the Greater Church, London Road (access from St James Terrace), with short breaks for Christmas and Easter. There is plenty of on-street parking around St James and a few spaces at the back accessed from St James Terrace. Cyclists can keep bicycles safe inside the church hall, under the stairs if wet please.

A break around 8.30pm allows you to buy hot drinks (at a cost of 80p each) , with notices given at the end. The final and compulsory rehearsal before each concert is usually on the Saturday afternoon from 1.30pm to 4.30pm. Where circumstances demand additional rehearsals, a later finish or a different venue, these will be announced at the half-time break and on the LBC website.

Please sign the attendance register when you arrive, and let Rosie know if you are unable to attend (see her contact details at the top of this page). Members who miss **more than 3 rehearsals and/or the final rehearsal may not be allowed to perform in the concert**, although our Music Director may make exceptions. Please consult Richard Laing, whose decision in such matters is final.

Concert dress

Women	Men
plain blouse or shirt (colour as directed)	plain white shirt
black jacket or cardigan	black dinner suit
long black skirt or trousers	black (or occasionally coloured) bow-tie
black tights and plain black shoes	plain black shoes

Please exercise restraint in your choice of discreet jewellery and make-up. The Concert Manager has the right to refuse entry on stage to members who are inappropriately dressed.

Membership fees

It is proposed that the membership fees for the 2015/2016 season are as follows :-

- 1 **MEMBERSHIP FOR ALL FULL TIME STUDENTS**
Free membership (inclusive of music hire) for all full time students.
- 2 **MEMBERSHIP FOR SINGERS UNDER THE AGE OF 26**
Reduced subscription of £25 per annum for singers under the age of 26 (who are not in full time education).
- 3 **MEMBERSHIP FOR SINGERS OVER THE AGE OF 26 WHO ARE NOT IN FULL TIME EDUCATION**
The annual subscription for singers who are over the age of 26 and are not in full time education is £160 per annum (inclusive of music hire). It is proposed that this can be paid in 3 ways :-
 - (i) Payment in full by cheque at the end of October 2015 OR
 - (ii) Payment by cheque in two installments of £80 each :-
 - (a) A cheque in the sum of £80 before the end of October 2015 and
 - (b) A cheque in the sum of £80 before the end of January 2016 OR
 - (iii) Payment by 8 standing order payments of £20.
- 4 **MEMBERSHIP FOR NEW MEMBERS WHO JOIN DURING THE 2015/2016 SEASON**
New members who join during the year are asked to pay a pro rata subscription of £60 per concert.
- 5 **Cheques should be made payable to "Leicester Bach Choir"** and subscriptions should be paid promptly to the Treasurer Jane Hoskyns at rehearsals (tel no 0116 286 3129, email jane@brooksedge.co.uk)

New members who pay income tax or capital gains tax can help the LBC substantially by signing a Gift Aid declaration as recovered tax provides over £1,000 p.a.

Finally, we do not want to lose anybody so if you will struggle to afford the full subscription please discuss this in confidence with Jane and negotiate an agreement.

Music

Our Librarian, Susan Heggie, organises music and may bulk-buy if enough people wish to use their own copies. Music is ordered well in advance of a concert, so if you know you won't be singing you need to tell BOTH Rosie and Susan. Susan's contact details are at the end of this section. Issued music has your name recorded against the score number: you are responsible for its care and timely return. You may mark borrowed scores in soft pencil but please remove all markings before you return them. As Susan collects music immediately after a concert please bring a rubber. If you fail to return a score you will be required to pay library fines and/or replacement cost, but we'd rather it didn't come to that! Please co-operate with Susan's system for collecting music – and thank her profusely for all the good-natured work she does on your behalf.

Be thoughtful. If you can't attend a concert and particularly if you are ill, it is not okay to wait until the next term before returning music. Such delays incur cost and nuisance and it is very easy to put it in an envelope and send it ASAP to Susan Heggie, 18 Ridings Close, Asfordby, Melton Mowbray, LEICESTERSHIRE, LE14 3TA. Even better, save her a chasing-up job by letting her know it is on its way: Telephone number - 01664 813522.
Email: Susan.P.Heggie@gmail.com.

Good communication

All committee members would be delighted to hear your ideas/comments/questions, but your singing representative is the main channel for 2-way communication between you and the Management Committee so make yourself known to him/her. Dates of upcoming committee meetings will (usually) be on the website – remind the Secretary or Chair if we forget to announce meetings at the break.