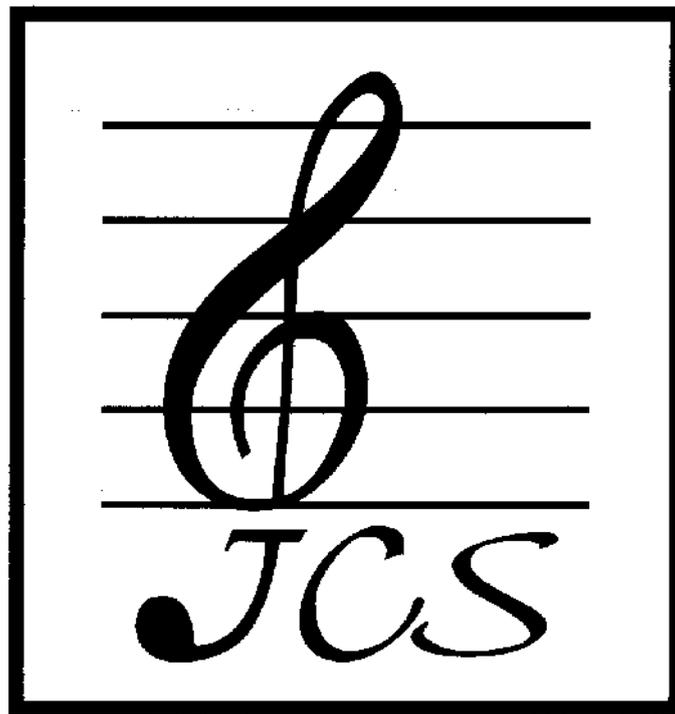


JAGS Choral Society



Information Pack

www.jagschoralsociety.com

Welcome to JAGS Choral Society

JAGS Choral Society (JCS) meets on Tuesday evenings during term time, between 19:30 and 21:30.

The Musical Director is Peter Gritton, currently Director of Music at JAGS, and the accompanist is John Flinders.

JCS was founded in 1987 to provide mature voices to support the girls at James Allen's Girls' School and to broaden the repertoire for the school's concerts. It also aims to provide opportunities for adults to take part in choral singing, including occasional concert tours abroad and in the UK.

There's a friendly, relaxed atmosphere, but a high standard is achieved.

MEMBERSHIP

JCS is a Community Choir. Anyone is welcome to join, irrespective of connections or involvement with the school. There are no auditions.

We have an online membership resource, which members can individually log onto to see and edit their own details. As well as contact information, members can check whether they have paid their subscription and the number of the music score they have borrowed. Members can optionally add an emergency contact if they wish.

The membership resource is on the choral society website www.jagschoralsociety.com and we encourage members to update their own details – particularly their current email address as all communication is via email.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

There is no joining fee but members pay a subscription that covers musical tuition, our accompanist for rehearsals, musicians for some concerts, refreshments and expenses. There is no fee for music scores borrowed.

Subscriptions may be paid annually at the start of the Autumn term or termly.

We rehearse during all three academic terms. The current subscription rates are £120 per year or £50 per term. Concessionary rates may be available at the discretion of the Treasurer.

There is no reduction in subs for non-attendance and no increase for extra rehearsals.

Payments can be made by bank transfer or by giving a cheque or cash to the Treasurer at rehearsals.

Our bank account details are:- HSBC Sort code 40-35-30, Account number 11446940. Cheques should be payable to JAGS Choral Society (or JCS).

REHEARSALS

Rehearsals start promptly at 19:30 with a warm up. They always take place at JAGS, usually in the Holst Hall but occasionally in the Dining Hall. We will post rehearsal details on the Calendar section of our website.

Whilst it is hoped that members will attend regularly it is recognized that commitments vary. So that the Committee and Musical Director can keep an eye on the balance of the voice parts in the choir, a register is completed at each rehearsal. Please tick when you are present and also indicate as soon as possible in the appropriate columns whether or not you will be singing at the next performance.

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As we near concert dates additional rehearsals may be scheduled on weekday evenings and the Sunday afternoon prior to performances. These are usually with the soloists, orchestra and school choirs when they are performing alongside JCS. There is also a pre-concert rehearsal on the day of the performance.

Details of changes to rehearsal venues and additional dates are posted in the website Calendar and emailed to members so please ensure we have your current email address. An annual schedule of key dates, including performances, is usually pinned to the JCS notice board from September and posted on the choir's website www.jagschoralsociety.com. It is regularly updated. Further announcements are made at rehearsals.

There is a 15-minute break midway through the rehearsal when refreshments are served. These are provided free of charge. The break gives members an opportunity to meet with other people in the choir. Volunteers are always welcome to the tea rota, to help with serving and clearing up.

We also have a party at the end of each term. This may be immediately after the concert, close to the venue, or a few days later in someone's house. Attendees are asked to bring buffet supper contributions.

During the Autumn term, usually around half term, the break is slightly extended to accommodate the Annual General Meeting.

There are no rehearsals during school holidays, including half terms.

MUSIC SCORES

The music we sing comes from a wide range of traditions but we aim to sing the classics of the choral repertoire at regular intervals.

Music scores are loaned to members from the first rehearsal. There is no extra fee for music loans. There may be opportunity for members to purchase scores at a discount. Members are welcome to bring their own copies if they have them.

All loaned music must be returned immediately after concerts or the last rehearsal you can attend that term. A note of the copy number is kept for each music score issued on the online membership resource.

Scores should be marked lightly with a soft pencil. A pencil – and ideally an eraser – is required equipment at all rehearsals!

CONCERTS

There are usually three concerts each year, towards the end of each term. Frequent venues are the Holst Hall, local churches (St Barnabas, All Saints) and concert halls such as St John's Smith Square. Extra concerts may be arranged when enthusiasm and opportunity permit.

Concert dress is customarily dinner jacket or black suit and tie for men and long black skirt or trousers with a black top with sleeves for ladies.

Posters and fliers are available before concert dates for members to take, display and distribute. This helps our publicity.

If you intend performing in a concert you will be expected to attend as many relevant Tuesday rehearsals as possible.

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If you can't sing in a concert for any reason, it is helpful if you can let us know as soon as possible. You are still welcome to attend rehearsals. Equally it is useful, for seat and voice part management, if you can indicate on the register that you definitely will be performing. A column with the concert date is at the end of the attendance register so please put a tick or cross against your name as soon as you can, preferably before half term.

We cannot guarantee you a seat or your name being in the programme if we aren't expecting you to attend, as some venues have very strict capacity limits and sometimes require numbers several weeks before the concert date.

CONCERT TICKETS

Ticketing arrangements vary and members will be notified in advance of each concert as tickets can sometimes be purchased through the school and sometimes directly from the concert venue. When tickets are available via JAGS, members will be able to buy them at Tuesday rehearsals.

Generally we perform with the school musicians in the Autumn and Spring terms but not during the Summer as they have exams. We therefore need to generate our own audience in the Summer as we can't rely on girls' parents to attend! If you are performing in the Summer Concert, we ask you to purchase two tickets (or three between a couple in the choir), so that members swell the audience with their family and friends. This also helps to pay for our professional musicians in the orchestra.

INFORMATION & CONTACTS

More information, including concert and rehearsal schedules, can be found on our website:
www.jagschoralsociety.com

The Music Department at JAGS can be contacted by email: **music@jags.org.uk** or by telephone on **020 8613 6436**.

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More information from **info@jagschoralsociety.com**