



Information for new members Season 2019-20

Welcome to Eversley Choir!

We are delighted to welcome you to the choir. We hope that you will make new friends, enjoy and at times be pleasantly challenged by our music-making and that you will take part in our social activities. Details of this year's programme are included under the various headings below but there is also a list of rehearsals and events on p. 4. At the end of the letter is a form for you to fill in and return to us.

Music Director and Accompanist

Our Music Director, who has a wealth of experience in working with singers of all ages and abilities, is Ian Jones. As well as conducting Eversley, he is also the founding Music Director of Levens Choir and Chorus Master of Cumbria Festival Chorus. Our accompanist is Ken Foster, a hugely accomplished pianist.

Rehearsals

We rehearse from September usually until mid-May on Monday evenings 7-9.20 pm. We have a 20-minute interval around 8.00 p.m. for choir announcements and socializing, with tea and coffee available for a nominal donation. Choir members take turns to volunteer to help with setting up, serving and clearing away. Please sign in for each rehearsal on the signing sheet for each voice part at the entrance to the rehearsal room. We hope you will attend all rehearsals, but we do understand that you may possibly have to miss one or two. In case of planned absence, please write A in the appropriate attendance register column. We have name badges, which we wear to rehearsals. This helps members get to know one another, and Ian, our Music Director, finds them very useful.

We have two important health and safety requirements. Firstly, **please do not wear perfume or after-shave to rehearsals**, as these can cause severe symptoms in people with fragrance allergy. We will have to ask you to leave a rehearsal if you arrive wearing fragrance and may have to consider the membership of anyone who persists. Secondly, **if you are at the infectious stage of a cold, flu or other illness, please don't attend a rehearsal or concert**.

Thanks if you can stack your chair at the end of the session. If, in addition, you are able to help with preparing and clearing the room for rehearsals, this will be much appreciated! If you can, please arrive a little early and give an extra hand at the end.

Music

We hire music scores for members. The cost is included in your membership fee. Please take care of your hire copy and return when requested. Mark your copy in pencil only. We will give you a folder to use as an outer for your music at concerts.

Concerts

We normally stage a large concert with orchestra in April or May of each year, a smaller scale concert in November, often with young musicians, and a Christmas concert. This coming year, we are deviating from this norm, as our preferred venue for the spring concert (Capernwray Hall) is temporarily unavailable. Consequently, we are planning two smaller scale (but interesting) concerts this year, plus the usual Christmas concert, followed by a performance of Handel's Messiah with orchestra in the Autumn term of 2020. The programme for our concert in November this year

revolves around the theme of 'Magnificat' and will include settings by Rutter, Finzi and Stanford. The theme for the spring concert is 'Fables and Fantasies'. As this is scheduled for a date in April, we have listed some further possible rehearsal dates up to 18 May to be confirmed nearer the time.

We count on members to take part in our concerts. If you are unable to perform, please mark the attendance register accordingly well in advance of the date and inform Ian.

Dress is usually all black for ladies and black tie for gentlemen, but this can vary.

We provide refreshments for our concert audiences for which your contributions will be welcome! Volunteers are also needed for setting and clearing up concert venues. Members of our choir take on the role of concert manager and they will be very grateful for your help.

Other musical events

On Saturday 15 February, we are hosting a 'Come and Sing' day at St Oswald's Church in Warton. Under Ian's direction, we will rehearse and perform 'Towards the Unknown Region' by Vaughan Williams and 'Insanae et Vanae Curae' by Haydn. Not only will this be a wonderful day for ourselves, but it will also provide an opportunity for other local singers to come and experience our choir, perhaps with a view to joining us in future. As there will be a modest fee for taking part, it will also be a useful fund-raising activity for us. Do please advertise the day with friends who sing!

Every other year, Eversley Choir takes part in the Mary Wakefield Festival in Kendal, one of the longest established competitive music festivals. Our own contribution is generally to join with other local choirs in the non-competitive Choral Celebration Day, which takes place on a Saturday. We generally sing extracts from pieces we have recently performed or are about to perform at our concerts. The next festival year will be 2021.

Social events

We are hosting an inaugural 'All Choirs Quiz' in Borwick and Priest Hutton Memorial Hall at 7.00 p.m. on Friday 18 October. Other choirs from the area will be invited to send teams and then to host this event in future years, with the profits being divided 50-50 between Cumbria Festival Chorus and the hosting choir. Tickets cost £12 including supper and a bar will be available.

In the spring term we hold a choir supper after a shorter than usual rehearsal. Tickets cover the cost of supper and again a bar is available.

Publicity and Audiences

We rely on members to raise awareness of the choir and provide good audiences for our performances. Thanks if you can promote the choir with friends, family and your communities, for example by 'liking' our Facebook page (Eversley Choir). At concert times, we will be grateful if you can post leaflets and posters in your community and sell tickets. Income from ticket sales is vital to running the concert programme.

Subscription and fund-raising

The current annual membership fee is £100, payable in September. Alternatively, you can make two payments of £50, payable in September and in January, or pay by periodic Standing Order with a minimum monthly payment of £10, with all instalments complete by end of June. Cheques should be made payable to Eversley Choir. If you are eligible, please Gift Aid your subscription; your £100 will then be worth £125 to the choir.

Subscription income by itself does not sufficiently cover the cost of mounting orchestral concerts and so we engage in fund-raising activities as well. If you have ideas and/or enthusiasm for helping with this, please do consider joining the fund-raising group.

Resources and support for singing

As you know, we do not hold auditions and so there will inevitably be a mixture of people in the choir: some with a lot of recent singing experience and some who may not have sung in a choir for some time (or even at all). Some music reading ability will be useful and the music we perform will require you to be able to hold a line in four-part harmonies. A 'good ear' for singing in tune is also pretty essential. There is a wealth of resources on-line for singers, including CyberBass and Choraline offering voice part rehearsal CDs and other learning tools. YouTube is also worth exploring. There are also many books and Apps (including the ABRSM Aural trainer) designed to develop musicianship skills such as sight-reading and sight-singing.

From time to time our MD offers additional group performance skills support, for example sight-singing tuition or sectional rehearsals before the main rehearsal begins.

Look out also for Voice workshops. Various organizations offer these and they are a fun, useful and often cheap development opportunity.

Other options include singing holidays and private singing lessons, though these can be expensive.

Running/managing the choir

There is considerable work involved in running any choir. Whilst the committee (see below) is formally responsible for this, we rely on the involvement of other members as well, so please do come forward and also consider becoming a committee member! We have an annual AGM (first half hour of the relevant rehearsal) and offer regular reports on choir matters.

Current committee Members

Name	Responsibilities	Section Rep
Valerie Walshe	Chair	Sopranos
Ian Jones	Music Director	
Wendy Williams	Secretary	Altos
Rodney Ward	Treasurer	
Judy Sharps	Publicity	Altos
Oliver Linton	Website, Internet, programmes	Basses and tenors
Ken Dunn	Venue and concerts management	Basses and tenors
Helen Johnson	Membership Secretary; liaison with musicians; tickets	Sopranos

Safety

Please take note of the fire drill on the noticeboard.

Further information, concerns and feedback

Please see overleaf for dates and location of all this year's events. Stay up to date by keeping an eye on our website (www.eversleychoir.org) and our Facebook page (Eversley Choir).

If you wish to discuss any choir matters, please speak to your section representative (see above) at a rehearsal or contact Helen (Membership Sec) on [01539621559/helen.johnson14@aol.co.uk](mailto:helen.johnson14@aol.co.uk)

We hope you will enjoy a long association with Eversley. However, if you decide to leave the choir, thanks if you can inform Helen or another member of the committee.

Eversley Choir Schedule 2019-20

Rehearsals take place on Mondays from 7-9.20. (On Bank Holiday Mondays, we understand that you may have other commitments, but we hope that most people will be able to attend.)

2019

Date	Event	Venue
2 Sep	Rehearsal	Borwick and Priest Hutton Memorial Hall
9 Sep	Rehearsal	B&PH Memorial Hall
16 Sep	Rehearsal	B&PH Memorial Hall
23 Sep	AGM and rehearsal	B&PH Memorial Hall
30 Sep	Rehearsal	B&PH Memorial Hall
7 Oct	Rehearsal	B&PH Memorial Hall
14 Oct	Rehearsal	B&PH Memorial Hall
18 Oct	All Choirs Quiz	B&PH Memorial Hall
21 Oct	Rehearsal	B&PH Memorial Hall
28 Oct	Rehearsal	B&PH Memorial Hall
4 Nov	Rehearsal	B&PH Memorial Hall
11 Nov	Rehearsal	B&PH Memorial Hall
18 Nov	Rehearsal	St Oswald's Church, Warton
21 Nov	Autumn concert	St Oswald's Church, Warton
25 Nov	Rehearsal	B&PH Memorial Hall
2 Dec	Rehearsal	B&PH Memorial Hall
9 Dec	Rehearsal	St Thomas's Church, Milnthorpe
16 Dec	Christmas concert	St Thomas's Church, Milnthorpe

2020

6 Jan	Rehearsal	B&PH Memorial Hall
13 Jan	Rehearsal	B&PH Memorial Hall
20 Jan	Rehearsal	B&PH Memorial Hall
27 Jan	Rehearsal	St Thomas's Church, Milnthorpe TBC
3 Feb	Rehearsal	B&PH Memorial Hall
10 Feb	Rehearsal	B&PH Memorial Hall
15 Feb	Come and Sing Day	St Oswald's Church, Warton
17 Feb	Rehearsal	B&PH Memorial Hall
24 Feb	Rehearsal	B&PH Memorial Hall
2 Mar	Rehearsal	B&PH Memorial Hall
9 Mar	Rehearsal	B&PH Memorial Hall
16 Mar	Rehearsal	B&PH Memorial Hall
23 Mar	Rehearsal	B&PH Memorial Hall
30 Mar	Rehearsal	B&PH Memorial Hall
30 Mar	Rehearsal	B&PH Memorial Hall
6 Apr	Rehearsal	B&PH Memorial Hall
13 Apr	Rehearsal	B&PH Memorial Hall
20 Apr	Rehearsal	B&PH Memorial Hall
26 Apr	Spring concert	B&PH Memorial Hall
26 Nov	Autumn concert (Messiah)	St Peter's Church, Heversham

Eversley Choir New Member Details

NAME _____

Voice S A T B 1 or 2? _____

Email address _____

Address _____

Phone contact _____

Any special requirements? _____
e.g. mobility

Please return this form to Helen Johnson (Membership Secretary) or Val Walshe (Chair).

Subscription: £100 (or 2 x £50) for year. Please make cheque payable to Eversley Choir and hand to our Treasurer Rodney Ward or to Helen or Val.

Are you eligible to **Gift Aid** your subscription? Yes / No / Don't know (speak to Rodney)

Thanks! We will contact you by email to seek permission to store your data securely and to use it to contact you. If you have filled in a paper version of the form, once your details have been entered electronically, the form will be shredded.

For Committee use:

Subscription paid Full year/part year

Welcome letter _____

Folder _____

Name tag _____

Notify Section Rep _____

Master list _____

Register _____

Email list _____