



BURNHAM & HIGHBRIDGE CHORAL SOCIETY

Registered Charity Number 1097213

MUSICAL DIRECTOR: JAMES DAVIES

2023/24



GENERAL INFORMATION

We usually put on one concert in December and another in the Spring. The Christmas concert is generally comprised of a choral work plus carols, old and new and other items of a seasonal nature. In the Spring we mainly sing a major choral work in one half of the concert and complementary pieces in the other half. Often, we hire a musical ensemble and soloists, depending on what the work requires, to accompany the choir.

This year at Christmas we will be singing J. S. Bach, Kantata 140 'wachtet auf' and Charpentier, Messe de minuit pour Noël. Other Christmas music will also be sung, and the brass band will join us at various times.

The Programme for the Spring is to be Brahm's Requiem. It is to be accompanied by two pianos rather than an orchestral ensemble. Other music will be included.

Sometimes we are asked to sing at other events. It is a good way to promote the choir. You will be advised of any other dates.

At Christmas we will sing carols somewhere to boost society funds.

This is often at Sanders and is in the daytime. This year the 16th and 17th of December has been suggested, between 1pm and 3pm.

We have a Facebook page. The Burnham and Highbridge Choral Society. You have access to this whether or not you are a Facebook member. Just search the name and it should come up. However, if any of your family members or friends are on Facebook it will be helpful to us if they 'like' the page. If we post something on that page, it can be accessed through your normal search engine. General ongoing information will be emailed to you, or you will receive a phone call.

Our website is burnhamandhighbridgechoral.org.uk and will have lots of useful information for you. It is also possible to purchase concert tickets from the website. Anne Hicks runs the website and will be pleased to receive information for it. Her contact details are on the back page.

We meet on Thursday evenings in the Methodist Church Hall in College Street, Burnham at 7.30pm. We have a break at 8.30pm and take it in turns to make the refreshments and wash up at the end of the evening. We ask for 30p towards your cup of tea/coffee. During the evening a 'Bonus Ball' game is offered at 50p a go. The money is shared equally between the Society and the person who has chosen the Saturday National Lottery Bonus Ball number. We will also happily accept 5ps on a weekly basis or provide a 'money bag' should you wish to store them at home. In addition, members can give to, or purchase, items from a stall. Running a good Choral Society requires funds so if you can think of a good money raiser, please suggest it. We also suggest that

you investigate 'Easy Fundraiser' which will donate a few pence to us each time you shop online, at no expense to you.

Subscriptions which cover the costs of rehearsals, and our musical instruction can be paid in full in September or in two halves in September and January. New members may attend three rehearsals before they commit themselves to joining. At the moment the sub is £90 for the two terms, Autumn and Spring, or two payments of £45. This is a very reasonable rate compared with other Societies and choirs.

If you pay Income Tax or Capital Gains Tax, you can fill in a Gift Aid form which will help the Choral Society which is a registered charity.

THE CONCERTS

A few weeks before a concert you will be asked to sell some tickets and will be given two for this purpose. If you can't sell them, they must be returned to the Society for sale on the night. Please do your best to sell them as we rely on the income. If you need more, they are available.

This year the Christmas Concert will be held on Thursday, 14th December at 7.30pm in The Catholic Church, Highbridge Road, Burnham. There will be a rehearsal for this in the church on the evening of the 13th.

The Spring concert is planned for Saturday 27th April at 7.30pm. Venue to be confirmed.

If you borrow a score from the Librarian, please take great care of it and rub out any pencil notes you have made before it is returned. Our Librarian, Pauline Baker, can be contacted on **01278 782913**

DRESS CODE FOR CONCERTS

For the gentlemen a dark suit and white shirt. A coloured bow tie (provided) is worn at the concerts. Ladies wear plain black long-sleeved blouses and long black skirt or trousers. A pink scarf is provided by the Society but like the bow tie must be returned if you leave the choir.

COMMON DATES

Return in September is the first Thursday in September, this year it is 7th September. The return in January is on Thursday 5th January.

On the Thursday evening following the Spring Concert there will be a Social Evening. We each bring a plate of food to share, volunteer to do a 'turn' if brave enough and enjoy a quiz. It is a good fun evening. Please bring a guest if you would like to.

Following this there is a very short term (about 6 weeks) referred to as The Summer Sing, where those who wish to get together to sing some more informal music. This is a very relaxed time and is just for fun.

Committee

Musical Director	James Davies
Deputy MD & Accompanist	Frances Webb
Chairman	Peter Read
Vice Chairman; Bass/Tenor Representative	Dave King
Secretary	Jane Lee 01278 783511
Treasurer	Peter Read
Librarian;	Pauline Baker 01278 782913
Publicity	Julie Skinner
Orchestral/Soloist Liaison	Penny Charman
Bonus Ball	Julie Skinner
Soprano Representative	Colette Winfield
Refreshments	Bernie Spilsbury
Alto Representative	Robin Jenkins
Ticket Officer	Gillian Briggs
Fund Raising	Bernie Spilsbury
Other Officers	
Concert Team	Richard Sigrist, Nigel Skinner
Website	Anne Hicks 01278751226 Mobile: 07881028762 Tarrs Farm, Brean Road, Lympsham, Weston-Super-Mare, Somerset, BS24 0HD

Here are the bank details if you prefer to pay your subscription online

The Burnham & Highbridge Choral Society

It's a Business Account

Lloyds Bank

Sort Code: 30-91-20

Acct No: 01551776