



**AXMINSTER & DISTRICT
CHORAL SOCIETY**



A Members' Guide

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Welcome to the Society. This is a short guide which we hope will help you feel at home. These are not rules, more a description of the way we do things. The rules are in the constitution: if you want a copy please ask the Secretary.

CONCERTS. Generally we have four concerts a year, in April, June, November and at Christmas. The April and November concerts are when we perform major works.

CONCERT DRESS CODE. For men: dinner suit with black bow tie; for women: plain black long or $\frac{3}{4}$ sleeved top, black long dress, skirt or trousers. Coloured scarves for women and handkerchiefs for men are provided. For less formal concerts there may be a different dress code. You will also need a black music folder. These are available from the librarian if you do not already have one.

REHEARSALS. These are on Tuesday evenings from 7:30 to 9:30 in the Minster at Axminster. The "terms" run from early September until the Christmas concert; then from early January until Easter, when we take a couple of weeks break; then through until the Summer concert. It is very important that you attend as many rehearsals as possible. It is critical that you come to the one on the last Tuesday before each concert when final "stand and sits" and other instructions will be given out, and to the rehearsal on the day of the concert with the musicians.

HELP WITH SINGING. Singing ability is mixed. We have some members who can sight read music perfectly and some who cannot read music at all. If you are not confident about something we are singing then please speak to your voice rep. There are a number of ways we can help. You can sit next to an experienced singer. You can practise at home with a practice CD, which amplifies your particular part (these are often available from Mike King very cheaply, otherwise from Choraline – see below). You can download the music from YouTube or Spotify and practise singing along with the music.

SCORES. The society provides the scores you need. The cost is included in your subscription, though you are welcome to buy your own: if you do so, please talk to the Librarian to make sure you have the same version. Members can get a 10% discount on scores and rehearsal CDs from Choraline (choraline.com) by quoting our reference AXMINSTER. You are responsible for the safe return of borrowed scores, which should have all your markings rubbed out so that it goes back in the same state as you received it. Music must be returned at the end of the concert, or the following Tuesday if there is a rehearsal that day. Prompt return of the scores is important as there are often penalties for late returns or missing copies. Any problems, please talk to the Librarian, preferably in advance.

COMMUNICATION. Our default method of communicating is via email, so it is important that we have your current address. The person you need to tell about this is your **voice rep** who should be your first point of contact for almost everything (for example, if you cannot get to a rehearsal, you should let your voice rep know). There is a periodic newsletter (called *Soundbites*) sent to all members which contains important information: please keep

your copy and refer to it. For those who do not have email, print copies of *Soundbites* and other information will be available at rehearsals, and you will be telephoned if there is an urgent message – such as the sudden cancellation of a rehearsal. Announcements are made during the break mid-rehearsal: if you miss a rehearsal, please make sure you catch up on these. Please also check the table by the front door every week: there are sometimes other items of interest there.

WEBSITE, FACEBOOK etc. The Society's website is www.axminsterchoral.co.uk. The Twitter feeds are visible there; you can follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/AxminsterandDistrictChoralSociety/>

SUBSCRIPTIONS. Members have the option of paying their annual subscription all at once in September, or in two instalments in September and January. If you pay income tax, we can reclaim some money from the Inland Revenue if you make a Gift Aid Declaration – pick up the form when you start paying your subs.

FUND RAISING. No choir is complete without this, and we run periodic events which you are asked to support. There is a weekly raffle to which members contribute prizes: the winners are announced in the break mid-rehearsal.

SOCIAL EVENTS. A regular social is the “bring and share” which generally happens twice a year: once in the autumn (usually on the same day as the AGM) and once in the summer. Other events are organised periodically.

PUBLICITY. We try to ensure that posters about all the concerts are distributed to the whole surrounding area. To achieve this, we ask members to volunteer to be “village reps” – please see Brian to volunteer.

FRIENDS and OTHER SUPPORTERS. The society has a number of Patrons and Sponsors, and wider number of Friends. Their annual donation entitles them to advance booking and preferential seats for concerts. See Celia.

There are always one or two committee members by the main door of the Minster on rehearsal nights. If you have any questions please ask.

WHO'S WHO

The Society's President is Andrew Millington, and there are two Vice-Presidents (Francis Burroughes and Alan Bulmer)

Our music director is Peter Parshall and the accompanist Peter Lea-Cox

For all things musical, please contact your voice representative first and then Peter. For non-musical issues please contact the person responsible for specific functions directly. For general matters Sheena Carr, our Secretary, is your best bet. For policy issues and complaints, please contact the Chairman - or vice-Chairman in his/her absence. Please contact one of the committee if you would like to help in some way.

Music Director		Peter Parshall	parshallp@gmail.com	01297 639377
Accompanist		Peter Lea-Cox	gilly@pottlelakepots.co.uk	01297 553620
Associate Director of music		Judy Martin	judydom@gmail.com	
Vice-chairman	C	Heather Lee	pilsdonkennels@aol.com	01460 220914
Voice rep – sops		Joan Lovegrove	lovegrove847@btinternet.com	01297 631091
Voice rep – altos and email lists		Chris Ashford	christinehashford@gmail.com	01460 261241
Voice rep – tenors		David Harrison	davidharrison@cantab.net	01297 32744
Voice rep - basses		Richard Dawson	richarddawson55@gmail.com	01297 553138
Secretary	C	Sheena Carr	s.carr31@hotmail.com	01297 34129
School liaison		Shirley McBride	christopher.mcbride1@btinternet.com	
Publicity	C	Brian McConkey	brianmconkey@yahoo.co.uk	01297 42033
Soundbites		Juliet Henham	julietHenham@gmail.com	07890967858
Hospitality	C	Sue Warren	warrensue7@hotmail.com	01297 631952
Drinks		Graham Jones	graham.jones247@gmail.com	01297 35725
House management and website	C	Ray Tomes	raytomes@talktalk.net	07961 308758
House management deputy		Suddhacitta	suddhacitta@hotmail.co.uk	01297 551547
Finance, printing concert programmes	C	Mike King	mike-honiton@hotmail.com	01404 43805
Library	C	Elizabeth Twining	ejtwining@gmail.com	01404 43805
Subscriptions, Patrons & Sponsors, Ticket sales, concert front-of-house	C	Rozanne Bulmer	rvbulmer@btinternet.com	01404 881838
Friends and social media		Celia Dunsford	celia.dunsford@btopenworld.com	01297 33563
Chairman	C	Cam Bowie	cam.bowie1@gmail.com	01297 34985

C indicates a committee member