



AXMINSTER & DISTRICT CHORAL SOCIETY



Registered Charity No: 900458

SoundBites – March 2022

A newsletter for members of Axminster & District Choral Society

Editor Juliet Henham

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Chairman's column

It was wonderful to see over 40 members at the last two rehearsals enjoying singing together again. And it sounds as if the recordings made by Peter of each rehearsal are really helpful for those unable to attend. With the unwelcome but realistic understanding that Covid-19 will be with us for months to come, the committee has agreed to change the concerts around. Swapping Elijah with the Messiah for the concert on Saturday 2nd April will allow us to enjoy the fruits of our rehearsals last term. Having Elijah in June gives us a bit more time to master the score. A key decision has to be made. Do we hold the June concert on Saturday 11th or 18th June. Please email us if you are unable to make one or other of the days which will include a rehearsal in the morning and performance in the evening.

The Messiah will be sung accompanied by Peter Lea-Cox on the piano and electronically created harpsichord. Harriet Mountford, our favourite soprano, has agreed to come and sing arias between choruses to give us time to catch our breath. We will not be advertising the concert but will have two tickets available for each member and friend of the society. These will be transferable so please return tickets you do not wish to use. We expect to have staging, a morning rehearsal, standard concert dress but no refreshments on the concert day in the Minster – Saturday 2nd April – the day before Passion Sunday – a fitting time to sing the Messiah.

Mendelssohn's Elijah will be performed with professional orchestra and soloists on either 11th or 18th June in the Minster.

The revised timetable for the year is presented below. Please note the works we are planning to sing – an exciting repertoire – and the proposed concert dates.

Finally, we are learning to live and sing with Covid-19. The ventilation in the Minster is being monitored at each rehearsal to ensure we keep the level of aerosol particles using CO2 as a proxy as close to the levels found in outside air as possible. Satisfactory indoor ventilation augments our policy of a lateral flow test within three hours before rehearsals to reduce the risk of someone with per-symptomatic infection attending. We will continue this practice for the foreseeable future whatever 10 Downing Street says, to help us keep each other safe. The revised Covid-19 safety protocol is included in Soundbites.

Looking forward the singing with you on Tuesday 1st March.

Cameron Bowie

Just a mention that Roxanne will have tickets for Messiah after half term. 2 per member at £10 each. If any extra might be needed I will make a reserve list, in case we can let people have extra. We would like to be able to give people plenty of space to enjoy the concert hence the limit on tickets.

Calendar

Season	Event	Date	Programme
2021-22	Spring term begins	12-Jan-22	
	Half term	22-Feb-22	No rehearsal
	Spring concert	02-Apr-22	Handel's Messiah
	Spring term ends	02-Apr-22	
	Summer term begins	26-Apr-22	
	Summer concert	18-Jun-22 or 11-Jun-22	depending on members' availability - Mendelssohn's Elijah
	Summer term ends	18-Jun-22	
2022-23	Autumn term begins	06-Sep-22	
	AGM	11-Oct-22	
	Main concert	19-Nov-22	The Requiems by Durufle and Faure
	Christmas concert	17-Dec-22	Vaughan Williams Festival of Carols plus other Christmas music
	Autumn term ends	17-Dec-22	
	Spring term begins	03-Jan-23	
	Spring concert	01-Apr-23	
	Spring term ends	01-Apr-23	
	Summer term begins	18-Apr-23	
	Summer concert	17-Jun-23	
	Summer term ends	17-Jun-23	

Message from the Librarian

Music for Messiah

There will be copies of Messiah available at rehearsals for anyone who needs one for the Messiah performance.

If you have borrowed a copy but will not be taking part in the performance please return it before the beginning of April.

Music should be returned in the condition in which you received it. If you were given a clean copy please rub out any markings you have made. However if you have already had to rub out a lot of previous markings you need not rub out all your own as well!

Do get in touch if you have any questions - ejtwining@gmail.com or 0140443805.
Elizabeth

Covid-19 Safe Protocol – updated 27th January 2022

Introduction

Covid-19 is here to stay and to sing together requires special measures to keep us safe. This protocol has been prepared by the committee and will be updated as we learn how to cope. It is based on the best available up-to-date public health advice and enhances current government guidance.

A number of members and our Music Director developed Covid-19 symptoms about four days after our Tuesday 30th November rehearsal suggesting they might have caught the virus which was probably the delta variant then. Having taken over from Delta Omicron is 40% more transmissible but 50% less virulent. The protocol has been adjusted to take this into account.

Singing is and will remain a high risk endeavour and so the protocol uses all reasonable measures to minimise the risk and help us feel safe. Any changes will be announced during rehearsals and will be emailed to members. We will avoid paper as far as possible.

The protocol

- Rehearsals will be held in the Minster as usual.
- Ventilation will be monitored using a CO2 monitor to ensure ventilation levels remain safe. Doors will be opened despite the temperature if the CO2 monitor goes above 800 ppm.
- Members will enter and exit the church wearing masks. Masks are encouraged to be worn in the church until seated and before singing. Masks can be removed for singing. If you wish to be ultra secure it is recommended you wear a mask specially made for singing throughout the rehearsal.
- It is important to avoid congestion at all times, so members are expected not to cluster or gather whilst in the Minster. To minimise congestion entering and leaving the Minster:-
 - On entry
 - everyone will enter by the north door which will be open from 7pm; please arrive early to avoid a crush approaching 7:30. You will be required to confirm a very recent (maximum 3 hours) negative LFD test
 - a sample locator form is found below. These details are required should we need to contact someone in the event of infection. New members should complete this before their first rehearsal and left on the table by the door on entry.
 - members should put their subscription money - cash or cheque - in a sealed envelope with their name clearly written on the outside. The subscription will remain at £90.00 for the whole year and may be paid in two instalments of £45, one now, the other in January. The bank accepts “ADCS” or “Axminster and District Choral Society”
 - please move immediately down to the back of the church if getting new or handing in old music
 - move to your voice bubble where your voice rep will help you find a seat quickly and safely and tick you off the register
 - On exit please leave your chair in place; it will be cleared by volunteers later
- Members are encouraged to be fully vaccinated where possible.
- Members should take a Lateral Flow Device (LFD) test as close to 7.30pm as possible. Please speak to our Covid-19 Adviser if there is a problem. Mary Ashby SRN has kindly agreed to be our Covid-19 Adviser. She can be contacted on 07909790679. If she does not answer she may be travelling or seeing a patient. She will return your call as soon as she can. Do not come if she is unable to do that in time.
- Attendance is strictly forbidden if you are:-
 - not feeling well. Covid-19 symptoms after two or more vaccinations in order of frequency are:
 - Runny nose

- Headache
- Fatigue (mild or severe)
- Sneezing
- Sore throat
- Less common now are persistent cough, fever, loss of smell and shortness of breath
- found to have a positive LFD test within seven days of the rehearsal
- A member with any Covid-19 related concern should contact our Covid-19 Adviser; her advice should be followed.

Notes

- LFD test kits are available free of charge - see government advice [here](#). You can order online or by phone or get the test kits from a pharmacy.
- As the LFD test is good at picking up new infectious infections the day before symptoms it offers added security. But as Omicron is more transmissible than Delta the test needs to be taken within three hours and preferably just before a rehearsal.
- With Omicron, after infection on Day0 a person usually becomes infectious on Day2 and develops symptoms on Day3.
- Special masks for singers can be obtained online, for instance from <https://masksforchoirs.com/>

Locator form for contact tracing purposes

Name	Email address
Voice part	Phone number
Current address	

If you move please update and re-submit your locator form.
