

***When our voices blend, our egos dissolve into a sense of oneness.  
Singing with others is humbling: no voice should stand out from  
any other***

## **Information for New Members**

*Welcome to St. Richard Singers!*

We rehearse in Chichester at St. George's Church, Cleveland Road, Whyke PO19 7AD on Mondays from 7.30pm to 9.30 pm (with a short break around mid-point), including some bank holidays and half-terms. SRS have a professional Director of Music who is in charge of all things musical, while the choir's day-to-day affairs are managed by a committee elected at the AGM at the beginning of the singing year in the autumn.

### **Membership:**

We operate an introductory period for new members of a few weeks to allow you to decide whether you would like to become a permanent member of the choir. We have a tradition of a high standard of sight reading with in-house soloists, so after the initial period new members will be asked to take part in a short and simple audition with the Director of Music before their membership is confirmed.

We sing three major concerts a year: one per term (Lent/ Easter, Summer & Advent/ Christmas). Our summer concert forms part of the Festival of Chichester in early July. We also sing in liturgical context when invited, for example a Requiem Mass or full traditional choral evensong. The venues vary, but in the main are local. We sing small sacred and secular works with either piano or organ accompaniment, and some larger works requiring an orchestra and professional soloists. This does not come cheap! We therefore advise you that the annual subscription (in 2019) is £150, in exceptional circumstance payable in installments. Subscriptions should be paid to our Hon. Treasurer, or by BACS, at the beginning of the choral year in September, and before the Annual Members' Meeting. We operate a scholarship scheme for young singers aged 18 up to and including 25. For further details on this scheme please contact our Secretary or visit our website. We do not offer discounts or refunds for missed rehearsals or concerts.

### **Music:**

We have a good music library, but on occasion need to hire scores. All our music is provided free of charge to members. Of course you are welcome to use your own personal scores, but please inform our Librarian in advance so that we do not hire surplus to requirement incurring unnecessary fees & carrier charges. All loaned music must be returned to our Librarian at the end of each performance. Please treat the music with care and remove all your markings before you return your copies. If you do mark your score, please only use a soft pencil (2B), and never mend with sellotape. Lost or damaged scores must be replaced.

A high level of commitment is expected, and Members should practise their music between rehearsals. To this end we provide learning resources in the Members' area of our website, or by email on request, so that we can concentrate on interpretation during rehearsal time.

**If you are unable to attend a rehearsal, you are requested to contact either the Director of Music, or the Secretary, to give apologies, so that a rehearsal schedule can be planned accordingly as our singing terms are relatively short.**

**Concerts:**

Choir members who have an attendance record of less than 80% (2 missed rehearsals) would not expect to sing in the concert, except at the discretion of the Director of Music. Please inform both Secretary & MD well in advance if you are unable to sing in a concert and return your music promptly. To help with the balance of voices, members who cannot take part in a concert are asked not to attend the final two rehearsals.

SRS usual concert “uniform” is: **gentlemen** - black trousers and open neck shirts, (sometimes dinner jacket and black tie) and footwear; **ladies** - long black trousers/ A-line skirt (i.e. floor length), black three-quarter length/ long sleeve blouse with collar attached, and black shoes. We provide black music folders for performances which must be returned.

**Communications:**

All members will be asked to fill in a GDPR form upon joining and instruct our Secretary if they do not wish their contact details to be circulated among the membership. We do not disclose details to non-members. You may occasionally receive information about other concerts or music events in the area via our Secretary, MD or from fellow members.

**Publicity:**

We do not have a large budget, and promoting our concerts is the responsibility of all members, not the PR Officer only. We therefore rely on every member to take the initiative to disseminate flyers and posters in strategic places, and to sell tickets.

**Management Committee:**

Your management committee is elected annually and consists of Chairman, Hon. Treasurer, Secretary, Librarian, PR Officer and other elected members. We also have a H&S officer in accordance with St. George’s rules. If you would like to join the committee, please inform our Secretary before the AGM, usually held in October.

We hope this does not seem too daunting and can assure you that once the preliminaries are dealt with, you will enjoy singing with our friendly choir.

*Kirsten Scott*

(Chairman)

**September 2019**