

Concerts

We aim to look professional in every performance.

Concert Dress

Ladies - black shirt/ blouse, black trousers or skirt or long black dress. Sleeves should cover elbows and trousers/ skirt/ dress be long enough to cover ankles when seated,

Men - black shirt, long black tie and black suit jacket

All - black socks / hosiery, plain black, low heeled shoes.

Please avoid, jeans or leggings, tight clothing, plunging necklines, transparent fabrics, sequins, shiny jewellery, faded black/grey and strong perfume.

Stage Etiquette

Use a black folder for all performances.

Stand when the conductor arrives and sit when they leave, following the Leader's cue.

Observe all marked stands and sits, moving together and remaining quiet once tuning begins.

If singing finishes before the end of a piece, continue to look ahead or at the Musical Director and wait until the music has finished before turning pages in your folder.

Choir Committee and Associates

Musical Director:	Adrian Griffiths
Chair:	Suzanne Cook
Secretary:	Robert Archer
Treasurer:	Anne Rosseinsky
Registrar:	Jane Lane
Patrons Secretary:	Anne Purdy
Publicity Officer:	Anne Purdy
Social Secretary:	Mary Rees
Stage Manager:	Steve Pillow
Committee Member:	Alyson Briggs
Committee Member:	Janet Connah
Librarian:	Becky Ford

The choir committee represents all members and meets several times each year.

If you have any questions, suggestions, comments or concerns, please speak to a committee member or send an email.

Rehearsal Venue: St Peter's Centre, Village Road, Heswall CH60 0DZ

Email: mail@stpeterssingers.co.uk

Website: stpeterssingers.co.uk

The Members area of the website contains up-to-date information for the choir, including key dates and important notices.

ST. PETER'S SINGERS

HESWALL'S CHORAL SOCIETY

Established 1976

Choir Members Handbook

Welcome!

We're delighted to welcome you to St. Peter's Singers. This handbook is designed to help you settle in, find your way around rehearsals and prepare for concerts with confidence.

Inside, you'll find useful information, general guidelines, and practical tips about being part of the choir. It's written mainly for new members, but we hope our long-standing singers will also find it a helpful reminder of how we work together as a choir.

We look forward to making excellent music together and hope you enjoy being part of our choir community.

Membership

Annual subscriptions are set by the committee and are payable in the Autumn term. Payment is made online by bank transfer. Subscriptions help cover essential running costs, including rehearsal venues and professional support.

New members join on a trial basis for two rehearsals, allowing both them and the choir to decide whether membership is the right fit. During this period, new members are encouraged to take part fully.

We value the social side of choir life. Refreshments are available before rehearsals, giving members time to socialise, and we also organise informal events during the year, including a summer garden party and a Christmas social evening.

Music

To avoid confusion, everyone must use the same edition of each piece. Music is available for hire from the Librarian, or you may use your own copy. Unfortunately, alternative editions cannot be used.

Please always bring a pencil to rehearsals for marking performance notes – use a 2B pencil only, never pen. Markings should be made routinely, without reminders from the Musical Director.

Handle all music with care. Most copies are hired and must be returned in good

condition. Each copy is numbered and signed out to you, so please do not swap copies or alter numbers as you remain responsible for the music issued to you.

Rehearsals

Our Musical Director uses rehearsal time efficiently to achieve a high standard of music and presentation.

Please attend as many rehearsals as possible and notify the Registrar in advance if you are unable to attend. In the case of last-minute absences, please email mail@stpeterssingers.co.uk.

Rehearsals move quickly and require full concentration and self-discipline. Please keep comments to yourself during the session.

Don't come without a pencil, and don't go home without using it!

Rehearsals focus not only on learning notes but also on developing vocal skills such as breathing, tone, posture and sight-reading. Individual coaching isn't possible, so extra practice at home is encouraged.

Always watch and respond to the Musical Director's beat and gestures. Eye contact is essential.

Don't be embarrassed by mistakes – everyone makes them, and good choirs

learn and improve together. The first rehearsals of a new work can feel challenging, so don't be discouraged. As Gustav Holst once said after a difficult first rehearsal of his Choral Fantasia: *"Well, you obviously don't think much to the music... maybe as you get to know it a little better, you'll enjoy it a little more!"*

Try to sit in concert formation during rehearsals, as this helps you feel more comfortable on stage when surrounded by familiar voices. Occasionally, the Stage Manager may ask you to move seats to suit the concert layout..

Vocal

Private practice is an important part of learning and enjoying our music. Listening to the works at home or in the car helps you become familiar with them as a whole, and even short practice sessions can make a real difference. Read through the words in rhythm, listen to those around you and aim to blend your voice rather than stand out.

Useful Online Resources

Online resources can support choral practice between rehearsals. Websites such as CyberBass.org and choralmusictutor.com offer rehearsal tracks and learning aids for many choral works and can help build confidence and familiarity with your part.