



## Welcome to Luton Choral Society!

On behalf of the committee and our members, I would like to offer you a very warm welcome to Luton Choral Society. You are joining a musical society that was founded over 150 years ago. We are proud of our history but are also very aware of our role in the local community. We believe we have several important functions:

- To perform music from the choral tradition to our local community and beyond
- To encourage people of a wide range of ages to join with us in performing this music
- To enable members to enjoy the social and emotional benefits of group singing
- To work with other local groups to promote choral music and broaden its appeal to our community
- To support our local community by performing at local events promoted by other charities
- To organise regular and varied social events to enable choir members to get to know one another and their families and friends

### **A message to those new to singing in a choir**

Unlike many other choirs, we do not hold formal entry auditions. We wish to draw in and support as many people as possible from our local community to join with us and enjoy singing. All singers including inexperienced and untrained singers are welcome, and in order to support new members, we arrange an informal one-to-one assessment with our conductor after a few weeks to ensure that you are singing the correct vocal part (soprano, alto, tenor or bass) and are coping ok with the type of music that we typically perform.

We always try to perform our concerts to the highest standards possible and we therefore expect members to attend rehearsals regularly and listen carefully to the conductor and those singing around them. Other members of the choir will offer help and support. It may seem confusing at first but if you persevere you will find your confidence grows and you really enjoy the experience of singing in harmony with a large group of like-minded people. Remember, many of our experienced singers felt just like you when they first arrived in the choir. Membership is free for the first term. We want you to feel welcome and be sure that you want to stay with us.

### **Rehearsals**

We rehearse every Tuesday evening during term time (including half term) from 7.30pm – 9.30pm at St Paul's Church, Latimer Rd/New Town St in Luton. There is an interval in each rehearsal which provides an opportunity to get to know other members. Musical scores can be hired (approximately £3 per concert) or bought according to your preference. Please tick the attendance register for your voice part each week (if your name is not on the list, please add it). We usually expect 80% attendance at rehearsals if you are to sing in the concert but please discuss this with the conductor if you are concerned you will not meet this requirement. Please ensure you bring a pencil and eraser to mark up your score with any musical directions given to you by the conductor. Learning files are usually available to help you learn your part and you will be sent links to these at the start of each term.



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On concert days there is usually an afternoon rehearsal at the church where we will be performing the concert. You will be given tickets to sell to friends and relations. Please ask the treasurer for more if you need them!

If you are not singing in a concert, then we may ask that you do **not** attend the rehearsals on the two Tuesdays before the concert, so that our conductor can work on the balance of the voices as at the concert day.

### **Concert conventions and dress**

These guidelines are to ensure that we adopt a professional and consistent approach to our performances.

#### **Concert Dress:**

Ladies – full length plain black skirt or black trousers, black top

Gentlemen – Dinner Suit, white shirt and plain black bow tie. For some concerts – black open neck shirt and black trousers

Music is usually to be held within the choir black folders (available for £12 to buy or £2 per concert to hire). Please ensure pages are turned quietly and not during rest bars.

Before the beginning of the concert please move to your places according to the directions you have been given. Please be aware of when the last person is in place as this is when the whole choir will sit down. The choir stands again as the conductor walks to the podium. We then follow the conductor's direction (either to remain standing to sing or to sit until required to stand.) Please mark stands and sits in your music and be alert as to when you have to follow the instructions. Please stand and sit quietly and move as much as possible as one body. Please ensure you keep watching the conductor while we are singing in order to give a really good performance. Please smile and look animated during the concert!

At the end of the concert remain standing until the conductor leaves the podium. We then all sit. We do not stand again until the conductor requests it. Please do not applaud while standing. We can applaud others while we are sitting.

### **Annual Subscriptions**

**New members have free membership for the first term and students have free membership.**

Our annual subscription compares very favourably to evening classes and entitles you to approximately 36 evening rehearsals per year (with expert musical tuition from our conductor) + participation in 3 afternoon rehearsals and 3 concerts. Many of our members pay by monthly standing order to spread the cost.

Subscriptions for this season are as follows:

#### **Full Membership**

Annual: £175; Termly: £58.50

SO over 12 months: £14.60/month

SO over 10 months: £17.50/month

SO over 8 months: £21.90/month

#### **Concessionary**

Annual: £160; Termly: £53.50

SO over 12 months: £13.40/month

SO over 10 months: £16.00/month

SO over 8 months: £20.00/month



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### **Joint full**

Annual: £325; Termly: £108.50

SO over 12 months: £27.10/month

SO over 10 months: £32.50/month

SO over 8 months: £40.70/month

Please pay by standing order (set up on-line) or by BACS if possible.

The bank details are as follows:

Name: Luton Choral Society

Sort code: 30-96-64 (Lloyds Bank)

Account no.: 00541490

Please note that if you are a taxpayer, you can sign a Gift Aid form which allows the Society as a registered charity to recover the tax from the Inland Revenue, and this is an excellent way of increasing our funds. For information on this and all other matters financial, please talk to Christine, our treasurer.

### **Luton Choral Society 100 Club**

You can support Luton Choral Society by joining the 100 Club. Each month from October to June there is a draw with chances of winning a first prize of £50 and a second prize of £25.

Joining the scheme is £21/ year, or £7/ term, or £1.75/ month and membership gives you your number which is entered into the draw. You are welcome to own more than one number at £21/ year/ number, and obviously the more numbers you have the greater your chance of winning. Encourage your friends and family to join too.

Payment by bank transfer or cash. The bank details are as follows:

Name: Luton Choral Society

Sort code: 30-96-64 (Lloyds Bank)

Account no.: 00556323

### **Website**

Our website is continuously updated so please take a look at: [www.lutonchoralsociety.org.uk](http://www.lutonchoralsociety.org.uk)  
Members are given their own username and password to access the Members section.

### **Access and Inclusion**

*Accessible* - any barriers that would prevent a person attending and fully participating are removed.

*Inclusive* - all people are included equally and everyone feels welcome and valued.

At Luton Choral Society, we try our best to make sure that joining the Society and singing in the choir are accessible to everybody, and that everyone feels welcome and comfortable at every rehearsal, concert, and social event which we hold.

Access and Inclusion is discussed as a topic at every committee meeting, and if anyone has any suggestions, comments, or concerns at all on how we can improve on access and inclusion, please let our Secretary, Mike Cocke, know on [secretary@lutonchoralsociety.org.uk](mailto:secretary@lutonchoralsociety.org.uk) or speak to him at rehearsals. Mike is the committee member responsible for Access and Inclusion, and he will help and feedback to you as quickly as possible.