



Burgess Hill Choral Society

www.burgesshillchoral.org

Registered Charity no. 276759

Supported by Con Brio
The Humphrey Richardson Taylor
Charitable Trust www.hrtaylortrust.org.uk

President: Jonathan Summers OAM
Musical Director: Michael Stefan Wood BEM

Secretary: Judith Conway
judith.conway47@gmail.com

The new choir season will begin on **Monday, 7th September 2026** at **7.30 p.m.**

Rehearsals/Concert

Rehearsals for the autumn term will take place at the All Saints United Reformed Church, Junction Road, Burgess Hill RH15 0JS

The December concert for this term is booked at St Andrew's Church for **Saturday 12th December**.

The spring term will commence on Monday, **11th January 2027** and the spring concert will be on **Saturday, 17th April 2027**

If changes in arrangements for rehearsals or the concerts are required, all members will be notified of such changes by separate communication

Subscriptions

The membership fee for the 2026/2027 season is £180 with the option to enrol for one term only for £100

It would be helpful if as many members as possible could pay by **direct bank transfer**. If you pay in this way, **please quote your name as the reference**. The bank account details are on the membership form.

If you prefer to **pay by cheque**, please make the cheque payable to *Burgess Hill Choral Society* and post it to Margaret Sheldon (treasurer). Her address is on the form. Do not send cash through the post.

You may wish to pay your membership fees by instalments e.g. with one payment of £100 now and a further payment of £80 in December; it is also very easy to set up a Standing Order to make a monthly payment. In addition, we are keen to be as inclusive as possible and ask people to pay only what they can. If you would like to make use of such arrangements please submit an accompanying note to this effect to Margaret.

If you have any concerns about membership fees or further queries about payment of your subscription, please ask Margaret: margaretsh1943@gmail.com or phone her on: 01444 453287.

Membership form

All members should complete a membership form. Please do one of the following:

- Submit the form online using the link presented in the covering email.
- scan the completed form and email it to Margaret when you have made the transfer
- post your completed membership form to Margaret if you are sending a cheque.

If you are eligible for Gift Aid, please complete the section at the foot of the membership form *even if you have made a Gift Aid declaration before*. Margaret will find this useful, to ensure that all relevant names are included when she applies to HMRC for the Gift Aid tax rebate, which makes a valuable contribution to choir funds.

Music Scores

Scores for the autumn term are available to hire as follows:

- Haydn *Nelson Mass: Missa in Angustiis* (New Novello Choral Edition ISBN 10: 0711986290 or ISBN 13: 9780711986299) for **£5** for the term

You may choose to make one payment to BHCS which includes this score hire fee as well as the membership fee and there is the opportunity to make this intention clear on the membership form.

This score may also be bought from e.g. AbeBooks for about £15.99:

<https://www.abebooks.co.uk/servlet/BookDetailsPL?bi=31620295241>

Used copies of this work may also be bought e.g. AbeBooks at about £10.02:

<https://www.abebooks.co.uk/book-search/isbn/9780711986299/used/>

Donations for BHCS could be raised with these purchases with no extra cost to you if shopping online through easyfundraising: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/burgess-hill-choral-society/>

It is anticipated that there will be further scores to access during the term but that these scores will incur choir members with minimal further expenditure. Some music to be used in the autumn term may be presented to members as PDFs via email to be printed at home where possible. A nominal fee will be charged for hard copies of these scores which will be made available at rehearsals.

Any queries about scores: ask **Chris O'Connell**: oonntipp@btinternet.com or phone 01444 230122.

Participation in Concerts

There is an expectation that choir members will perform at the concert(s) within the term/season to which they have enrolled. However, it is acknowledged that there may be exceptional circumstances, such as illness, which could prevent such participation. In such situations, it is important to advise the Chair Person of the anticipated absence at the earliest opportunity. In addition, choir members who are not performing at a concert should not attend the final rehearsals for that concert.

Concert Tickets

In an endeavour to grow our audiences we shall be allocating two concert tickets to each choir member to sell and it would be appreciated that, if a choir member is unable to sell either of them, they will donate the cost of one concert ticket i.e. £17 to the Society. We shall also be offering a prize to the person who sells the most concert tickets.

Choir Website: www.burgesshillchoral.org

The members' pages of the website include a range of materials which are of interest to choir members including practice materials, announcements and key dates. Check these pages for any changes to time or place of rehearsals and the details of committee members.

Choir Facebook Site: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/burgesshillchoralsociety/>

Choir members are encouraged to access the BHCS Facebook pages to keep in touch with one another and share in some entertaining posts.

Choir Instagram Site: <https://www.instagram.com/burgesshillchoral/>

Help promote BHCS and share our news by accessing our Instagram site.

Choir WhatsApp

Our WhatsApp site has proved very helpful for the sharing of information pertinent to the choir including any changes in arrangements and answering queries. Please contact either Jane Leng or Jo Kyndt if you would like to be added to this group.

Rehearsal schedule

The rehearsal schedule, showing which sections of music are planned to be rehearsed each week, will be issued in September, and will also be put on the website.

Audio practice material

The BHCS website – Members' pages, under 'Practice Materials' – suggests some audio practice material that you can listen to, to help in learning your own part. Please contact a committee member if you experience any difficulty accessing these materials.

100 Club

Thank you to all those who have joined the 100 Club in the past and, in particular, Rhonda Young who, in recent years, has kindly run this scheme which has raised useful funds for the society. It involves buying one or more shares at a cost of £12 each and a draw is made each month from September to April, usually on the last Monday of the month. The prize associated with this draw is £20 but there are two prizes of £50 in December and two of £25 in April.

We would be delighted if you chose to join this scheme for the forthcoming season. If so, you may choose to make one payment to BHCS which includes these 100 club shares in addition to score hire fees as well as the membership fee and there is the opportunity to make this intention clear on the membership form.

Committee

All committee appointments will be made at the AGM. I am delighted that the following committee officers and members are willing to be re-elected on to the committee for the forthcoming season: Jane Leng (Chair), Margaret Sheldon (Treasurer), Judith Conway (Secretary), Christine O'Connell (Librarian), Martin Collett, John Newton and Wendy von Bergen.

If you'd like to join the committee, do contact any of the present committee to find out what's involved and ask for a nomination form.

Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be held on **Monday 5th October 2026**, followed by a normal rehearsal for the rest of that evening. The agenda and the draft minutes from last year's AGM will be sent to members beforehand.

I look forward to seeing you all in September. Meanwhile, do contact me if I can be of any further assistance.

Best Wishes

Jane

On behalf of BHCS Committee

burgesshillchoralsociety@gmail.com