



# BIRKENHEAD CHORAL SOCIETY

## Annual Members' Guide

BCS seeks to be a friendly, mutually supportive choir, which fosters good will and offers a high standard of music for our own and our audience's enjoyment. This Member's Guide is intended to promote these qualities.

**Rehearsals** - We aim to make the most of rehearsals in order to achieve a high standard. Please be seated for rehearsals by 7.45pm, having signed the register – late arrival is disruptive and should be exceptional. As a courtesy, members should be quiet when other parts are practising. Watch and listen to our conductor, marking his instructions in your music in soft pencil. If you miss more than 3 rehearsals or the dress rehearsal you will not normally be able to sing in the ensuing concert; but if you ask in good time, the Committee may make an exception.

**Concerts** - Preparations for a concert are considerable. All members are expected to help in some way, however small. Members should sell as many concert tickets as possible and distribute publicity. Note on register your intention to sing in the concert, or not, before the penultimate rehearsal: members are expected to sing in concerts unless with good reason unable. We issue a music folder, on loan, for use in concerts. The approved uniform must be worn.

**Subscriptions** - Subscriptions must be paid within 4 weeks of the AGM or of joining and are non-refundable. Failure to do so means membership will be suspended until it is paid. Two part payment can be arranged. If you pay income tax, please sign a Gift Aid form for the Treasurer,.

**Buying and Hiring Music** - Complete the music lists, which are passed round well before each concert. If you order music you are committed to paying for it. Hired copies must be returned to the librarian, Gill West, at the end of each concert: a fee has to be paid for music returned late. If you are not taking part in a concert return your hired copy beforehand.

**Website** - We welcome any ideas or material for the website ([www.birkenheadchoral.org](http://www.birkenheadchoral.org)); and it adds to our publicity if you can spread that web address through your friends. It is full of useful information for members, including practice aids, and is regularly updated.

**Absence and Leaving the Choir** - If you leave the Choral Society temporarily or permanently please inform the membership secretary, Graham Burgess. If absent for more than one year, without renewing your subscription, you will be asked to reapply if you wish to return. For shorter absences your place will be held; but it is very helpful if you keep us informed of your intentions. If you are leaving permanently, please return your BCS folder or pay £9 in lieu.

**Feedback** - If you have any questions or ideas on any aspect, please tell a Committee member.

**Committee** - Please consider whether you can spare a little time to help and allow yourself to be nominated for election at the next AGM. Committee Members can serve up to a maximum of three consecutive 3-year terms.

Claire Tomkinson  
Chair

September 2024