Welcome to Harrogate Theatre Choir





Welcome to Harrogate Theatre Choir. You've joined a special group of singers united by our love of two things: singing in a choir, and musical theatre and film. Although none of us are professionals, we aspire to sing to the very best standards, expertly tutored and encouraged by our Musical Director, Catherine Field-Leather. Our repertoire also includes Christmas songs and carols, in season, and occasionally a purely choral piece or two, all of which help us to develop both as individual singers and as a choir.

We don't confine ourselves to venues in Harrogate either. Harrogate Theatre Choir has sung at the Royal Hall, in the Cellarium at Fountains Abbey, at Masham Town Hall, Newby Hall and Otley Arts Centre. We also recorded our first CD in All Saints Church, Kirkby Overblow. Exciting plans are already afoot for 2027 and beyond!

So you are starting on an interesting musical journey - we are run by a small Committee, of which I am privileged to have been elected Chair. If you have any suggestions about how we can continue to improve Harrogate Theatre Choir then please don't hesitate to speak to one of us, or to Catherine if it's a suggestion about musical matters.

Once again, welcome - and look forward to enjoying singing with us!

Andrew

ANDREW FORSYTH
CHAIR
andrewrforsyth@aol.com



Thank you for choosing HTC as your new choir family!

Choral excellence may be at our core, but we never lose sight of the sheer joy of singing and performing together. I do hope you enjoy your time with HTC, and the journey of learning and developing as a singer.

All singers within HTC can put themselves forward for solo/duet/quartet opportunities. A separate audition will then follow. Please indicate your interest directly to me.

I am always happy to answer queries, so feel free to email or have a chat before or after a rehearsal.

Catherine

CATHERINE FIELD-LEATHER FTCL FRSM LRSM LTCL
MUSICAL DIRECTOR
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THE HTC COMMITTEE

HTC is managed by a committee consisting of Chair, Musical Director, Secretary, Treasurer, HTC Publicity and Social Media, Events' Coordinator, Social Secretary and Librarian. These positions are elected at the AGM and volunteers to join the Committee are always welcome!

The Annual General Meeting is held at the beginning of the Autumn Term.

As well as Andrew and Catherine the members who currently make up the HTC Committee are:

 **BETH SOWRAY** HTC TREASURER htctreasurer17@gmail.com	 **JEAN MILLS** HTC SECRETARY htcsecretary17@gmail.com	 **MEL TOWLER** HTC LIBRARIAN mjtowler29@btinternet.com
 **GERRY SHAW** HTC PUBLICITY, SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE geraldineshaw0@gmail.com	**VACANCY** SOCIAL SECRETARY	**VACANCY** HTC EVENTS CO-ORDINATOR

PERFORMING AS A NEW MEMBER

Joining a new choir can be daunting. Not all new members are experienced sight-singers; it is usual for a new member to rehearse with the choir for around three months before considering taking part in performances. However, this depends on the experience of the singer, and subject to the discretion of the Musical Director.

REHEARSAL TIMES and SELF PRACTICE

Our weekly rehearsals are held on a Thursday evening at the Wesley Methodist Church, Oxford Street, Harrogate. We gather from 7.15pm for a prompt start at 7.30pm and finish around 9.30pm.

As a courtesy to the MD and the other singers, please try to arrive on time. The warmup is an essential part of the rehearsal as it contributes to your singing technique and the way the choir sounds. Please be ready to start the warmup at 7.30pm. Latecomers, please slot in quietly. There will be a 5/10 minute interval during the evening. A rehearsal is just that - rehearsing the material you have practised at home, not learning from scratch every week.

ATTENDANCE and MUZODO

To communicate information about HTC rehearsals and concerts, we use an online scheduling system called Muzodo. It enables members to indicate their availability with a simple YES, NO, MAYBE. Jean, our Secretary will add you as a member and, within the first week of joining HTC, you'll receive a welcome email from Muzodo. This will ask you to confirm your membership and prompt you to set a password. In due course you'll then receive invites to all scheduled HTC rehearsals and concert dates.

You can use the website version of Muzodo or you can download the Muzodo app, whichever is more convenient. Further information about Muzodo and a link to the User Guide can be found on the Members Section of the HTC website (password: SATB). It's very easy to use but if you need any help, please ask Jean or Gerry.

Regular attendance at rehearsals is essential to maintain high standards of performance. Attendance is recorded on Muzodo each week, and reviewed each term, to ensure that you are as committed to the choir as we are committed to you.

When singers receive invites to rehearsals/events, it's very important that they keep Muzodo up to date showing their availability. This helps the MD plan the rehearsal accordingly. If you can't attend, please give a reason! We understand that sometimes it is not possible to attend rehearsals – life is busy. However, it is important for you to be at rehearsals, not just for your own benefit, but for all the choir members. Rehearsals are always focused on an upcoming performance.

Muzodo is also used to communicate ALL details of our concerts and events to members. Expect to see meet times, concert start and finish times, dress items, and anything else which is required for a specific event. Our MD will email the running order of the concert prior to the event.

At some point we all catch coughs, colds and other infections, and HTC is happy for these NOT to be shared amongst the choir members. Just use commonsense - if you are not feeling well, then please stay away until any symptoms and infections have passed, and your healthy glow has returned!

If you have missed more than three rehearsals during the build up to a concert, it will be at the MD's discretion whether you are able to sing in the concert. Additionally, we ask you to commit to attending the final rehearsal before the concert.

LEARNING RESOURCES

The MD prepares music click tracks for all the voice parts, which are available on the HTC Music shared One Drive to aid your personal practice. Further details are provided under the 'YOUR MUSIC' section.

CONCERT COMMITMENT

It is expected that every choir member is committed to take part in all major concerts wherever possible. Subject to the venue or booking requirements, smaller ensembles may be required. All singers have the opportunity to be involved.

Our concert dress code is normally ALL black. Full guidelines are in the Members' Section on the website (password: SATB). Harrogate Theatre Choir

For some concert venues you will need a small, clip-on light. HTC does not provide these.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Harrogate Theatre Choir subscriptions are due each term. Payment must be made on or before the following dates. The term fees are currently £70.00.

- 31st August
- 31st December
- 31st March

Every new member pays an additional £35 when they join the choir. This one-off payment partly covers the initial outlay of printed music in an A4 file, HTC concert folder (please use for performances only), HTC bag and HTC pencil with rubber!

Subscriptions are paid directly into the following account. Please include a reference which allows our Treasurer to identify the payees, such as "MelT".

- Account Name: Harrogate Theatre Choir
- Sort Code: 30-93-91
- Account number: 25836168

Please note, if you decide to leave the choir, the printed music in the A4 file and the concert folder MUST be returned to the Librarian in the condition you received the items. You may retain everything else given to you as part of the Welcome Pack.

Harrogate Theatre Choir may charge you for any damaged items which cannot be used again or lost items.

YOUR MUSIC

Your music folder is bursting at the seams with over 50 copies of printed music which all belongs to HTC! Each copy will have your HTC ID on the front cover.

At the front of your folder are 2 lists. The first is the printed music in your file, and the second list are the music scores which are available on the HTC Music shared One Drive. Each member can print their own scores from the One Drive –this is usually a small number each term. If you do not have the facilities to print these scores then please ask other singers in your voice group who can help.

Access to the HTC Music shared OD can be found on the Members Section of the HTC website (password: SATB). Harrogate Theatre Choir

On the OD, Catherine also provides click tracks for most of the music we are studying. A great resource for all your personal practice. Please explore the OD and if you need any help, just ask Mel, our Librarian.

Please take care of your music!

If you need to mark your scores, use your HTC pencil and very lightly. Before returning your music file all pencil markings MUST be erased. Need it be said - no biros, highlighters, or punching of holes!

HTC singers will be informed by Catherine of the music that is required for each Thursday rehearsal. Keep an eye on your emails! So just bring along the scores needed and leave your heavy music file at home.

PUBLICITY, SOCIAL MEDIA and WEBSITE

Everyone can help spread the word of the wonders of Harrogate Theatre Choir!

The Harrogate Theatre Choir website is a great place to start. A dynamic site which has lots of information including our Future Events programme, recent News, our Repertoire, How to Hire HTC and much, much more. Our supporters, followers and friends can sign up to receive HTC Newsletters which are sent out 2 or 3 times during the year.

If you use social media, then here are the links to our Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube accounts. Likes/follows are much appreciated! We especially rely on choir members sharing posts when we are promoting concerts and events.

Facebook
Twitter
Instagram
YouTube

We also have a private Facebook group for HTC members which is an optional, informal group for members to share info and interesting items between ourselves. If you wish to, please ask to 'Join' and we will process your request as quickly as possible.

EVENT MANAGEMENT

What is a choir without somewhere to share our passion in performing and singing to an audience?

If you have any thoughts or ideas of suitable venues for our concerts, then please share them with any committee member. We'd like to hear from you!

In addition, behind (or rather in front of) every performance is our friendly HTC Front of House team. They are the first people the audience meets when they arrive at the concert venue, and most importantly they are the friendly, smiling face of Harrogate Theatre Choir.

We are always looking for extra help "out front", especially with larger venues. Some of these tasks may include checking tickets, being an usher and helping to find seats, pointing out the conveniences, selling raffle tickets, putting on the kettle and helping to provide refreshments at the interval, and occasionally helping to set up the performance space.

The requirement is very diverse – each venue is different. But it is fun and the whole choir appreciates the help from the FOH team.

If you have friends or family members who might be interested in helping HTC at a concert, again, please speak with one of the Committee!