



Sussex Voiceworks

COME AND JOIN OUR CHOIR



- Free taster of any Monday rehearsal to try us out
- No auditions or requirement to read music
- 'Buddy system' to help you settle in
- Accessible music, choral classics, jazz, musical theatre
- Rehearsal tracks to aid learning
- Regular concerts with professional soloists and musicians

www.sussexvoiceworks.com

sussexvoiceworkschoir@gmail.com



Registered charity 1058273 Affiliated to Making Music

Sussex Voiceworks meets weekly on Mondays from 7.15-9.15pm at St Peter's Church, West St. Shoreham-by-Sea, BN43 5WG. We hold 36 rehearsals in the year between early September and the end of June. We perform up to three concerts; at Christmas, in the Spring and at the end of the season. These often include professional soloists and musicians. In addition, we hold an annual 'Come and Sing' workshop, sing carols for charity - often the RNLI - and go on a UK tour over May Bank Holiday when numbers allow.

GOOD TO KNOW

Do I need to read music?

No this is not necessary and both readers and non-readers are able to fit in. We are a non-auditioned choir but there are enough sight readers in each section to help the others along. Sarah works with us on mastering the notes, with Lesley Anne on piano supporting the lines. Members are expected to practise at home and the choir subscribes to an online resource to aid this. It provides audio rehearsals tracks for a comprehensive range of choral music and Rhett, our music librarian, ensures that all of the music we are rehearsing at any given time is available on that site.

What can I expect at a rehearsal?

At the beginning, Sarah warms us up with stretching, breathing and fun vocal exercises. We particularly enjoy her irreverent version of "Doh a deer"! We work on the music for the upcoming concert, initially by getting a feeling for the whole piece and then by breaking it down and tackling the notes and words in sections and together. Once we are more confident with the music, we concentrate on style, breathing and delivery. We have a break in the middle to catch up with friends and at the end everyone chips in to clear up the hall. It is a good work out and we usually end the rehearsal feeling invigorated.

What do you perform in the concerts?

One of the delights of Sussex Voiceworks is the range of music styles we cover. The Christmas and Spring concerts tend to include one substantial choral piece, along with carols/anthems/shorter works. Examples include Haydn's

Missa Sancti Nicolai, John Rutter's Mass of the Children, the Faure Requiem, Schubert's Mass in G and Howard Goodall's Requiem 'Eternal Light'. We hire professional soloists and musicians to support these pieces and have also performed with young choirs, including the West Sussex Youth Choirs and school groups. For the summer concert, we often perform lighter works from opera, jazz, musical theatre and popular music such as the West Side Story medley, the songs of Irving Berlin, jazz classics, Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves, Gershwin, Simon and Garfunkel and recently shared our concert with Hangleton Brass Band.

Do you have social events?

Yes indeed. The annual Workshop and choir tour both include a strong element of social interaction. The latter takes place when numbers allow (barring the pandemic) and is a great way for choir members to really get to know each other at dinner, sightseeing and travelling. In addition, we have an informal 'party' after our Christmas concert, hold a hugely popular annual Quiz night, featuring the renowned Sussex Voiceworks buffet supper, and arrange an end of season social for members, family and friends. This has taken many forms including formal dinner, fish and chip supper and even an outdoor 'singing picnic' during lockdown.

How much does membership cost?

The annual subscription is between £120 and £240 depending on age, and this includes the provision of music scores. It is payable in one or two instalments and covers 36 rehearsals and up to three concerts per year. This is equivalent to a maximum of around £3.30 per hour. We believe this is very good value for a leisure time activity which brings us such benefit for our health and well being, as well as joy.

Where can I find out more?

Full information, including the current season's programme, upcoming events and contact details is available on our website at www.sussexvoiceworks.com You can also email or phone the Membership Secretary and Chair, Helen Prance, via sussexvoiceworkschoir@gmail.com and on 01273 494490. See also the choir Facebook page and Twitter feed

Meet our Musical Director



Sarah Forbes has been our Musical Director since 2019 and has brought her sparkle, sense of fun and sheer joy in singing to the choir. She is a classically trained soprano with operatic roles including Zerlina (Don Giovanni), Governess (The Turn of the Screw), Barbarina (The Marriage of Figaro) and Gianetta (The Elixir of Love). As a postgraduate at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland (formerly RSAMD) she was a conductor for both the Pentland Singers and Pentland Junior Singers. Education work is an important part of Sarah's singing career with the West Sussex Youth Choirs and projects including schools concerts for the LSO at The Barbican and her own show for babies commissioned by Celebrate Voice Festival called 'Over the Moon', which weaves classical song, nursery rhymes and sensory play.

Meet our Accompanist



Lesley Anne Sammons has also been with the choir since 2019 and brings a huge range of experience as a freelance Musical Director, repetiteur and vocal coach. She has worked for Glyndebourne Festival and Tour, English National Opera, Opera North, English Touring Opera, Royal Opera House, Grange Park Opera, Opera Holland Park, Longborough Festival Opera, European Opera Centre and New Sussex Opera. She is an Associate Lecturer at Chichester University coaching and nurturing young people in Classical Singing, Piano Accompaniment and Musical Theatre. Lesley Anne has been Musical Director with Barefoot Opera since 2010 where she has become a keen arranger of standard Opera repertoire fusing Piano with Accordion, Double Bass and Clarinet. This ensemble has become The Barefoot Band.