



Philomusica of Gloucestershire and Worcestershire

"We are the music makers and we are the dreamers of dreams"

Notes for New Members

Welcome to Philomusica

Philomusica was founded in 1966 and has a very exciting musical history. In 2016 we not only celebrated our 50th anniversary but also we gave our 1000th concert. In 2016 we were also the proud recipients of the Elgar Society Certificate of Merit. The choir performs a wide variety of music and gives concerts in some lovely churches. Above all, however, we have great fun singing together and we hope that you will have a long and very happy membership of Philomusica (or "Philo" as we all call ourselves for short!).

Some basic information about Philo is given below, but if you haven't already done so, do visit our website: www.philomusica.org.uk. As a member you will also have access to the members' section. You can get the password from your Group Rep.

There are no auditions to join Philomusica; instead we have a one month trial period in which we decide about you and you decide about us. During this period you may be asked to sing a short piece of your choice to our Conductor in private, but only if she needs to assess the range of your voice.

Rehearsals

Weekly rehearsals are 7.30pm to 9.30pm on: -

**Thursdays at Bromyard Road Methodist Church, Worcester, WR2 5DL, and,
Fridays at Milestone School, Longford Lane, Gloucester, GL2 9EU.**

Choose which night suits you best. If at any time you're unable to attend your regular rehearsal group you will be most welcome at the other group instead.

Members are expected to have attended a minimum number (75%) of rehearsals before taking part in a concert. Occasionally, we have joint rehearsals when the whole choir comes together.

Keeping you informed

Notices are sent out each week to all members by email so please make sure your Group Rep has your email address. If you are not on email your Rep will give you a printed copy. We also publish an occasional newsletter for members, *Soundbites*, which is also distributed by email.

Music

Members mostly purchase their music, although sometimes we all use borrowed library copies. Your Music Rep. will give you more specific information.

We ask new members to return borrowed music after each rehearsal to avoid problems with recovering music should people decide not to continue with Philo. For concerts we all use a Philomusica folder in which to keep our music. Your Music Rep will be able to supply you with a folder at a reasonable cost.

Concerts

Our concerts, about 12 a year, usually take place on Saturday evenings and there is normally a rehearsal on the afternoon of the concert. Dates of concerts are announced well in advance. Everyone is expected to attend the pre-concert rehearsal.

Unless variations are announced in advance of a specific concert, standard dress is: -

Ladies - Full ankle length black skirt/dress - hemlines must be to the ankle bone and not higher - with black tights and shoes. No trousers. Black top with $\frac{3}{4}$ or long sleeves, or jacket. We ask you to wear a jacket for the Abbey performances; and at **all** concerts, if you carry a bag on to the platform, it should be a **small** black one, please. Jewellery should be subtle and kept to a modest amount.

Gentlemen - Black dinner suit. White shirt with black bow tie. Black shoes and socks. A coloured bow tie is also required for our lighter concerts.

Fragrances - We request that all members show **restraint** in the wearing of fragrances at concerts, out of consideration for others. We ask all members to refrain from using aerosol perfumes or hairsprays. As most, if not all, deodorants, fragrances and hairsprays are designed to work for several hours, we also ask that members refrain from "topping up" between the afternoon rehearsal and the concert in the evening



Membership Subscription

Our subscription is currently £80 a year, with a £5.00 reduction for members aged 65+ who wish to claim it. Payments can be made annually, or by instalment each term, and the methods and bank details are shown in the members' area of our website. Our year is split into three terms: January to March, April to July, and September to December.

Your first term is free.

Members in full-time education are not required to pay subscriptions.

CONTACT DETAILS

Members

Please ensure that you let your Group Rep know of any changes to your contact details. The Group Reps have a key role as the conduit through which all members can make comments to or raise questions with the committee.

Committee members include

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|-----------|------------------|--------------|----------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Conductor | Linda Parsons | 01684 850426 | Gloucester Group Rep | Bob Howe | 01242 233443 |
| Chairman | John Quinn | 01452 506417 | Worcester Group Rep | Sheilah Daughtree | 01684 561872 |
| Secretary | Kathryn Thurgood | 07761 559072 | | | |
| Treasurer | Peter Cutler | 01905 350340 | | | |

To email any of the contacts listed above, or any other committee member, visit our website www.philomusica.org.uk and click on 'Who We Are', then 'Our Committee'.

Music Reps

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| Gloucester | Janet Lanigan | music4philo@virginmedia.com |
| Worcester | Tony Collins | kartoninmalvern2@gmail.com |