



Sutton Valence Choral Society

Welcome to Sutton Valence Choral Society. Here is some basic information about who we are and what we do. Please don't hesitate to ask a member of the Committee or your Voice Part Representative if you have any questions or concerns. You can also find up to date information on rehearsals, concerts, social events, and lots more in the Members Area of our website: www.suttonvalencechoral.com

Our Vision

Our vision is simply to share the pleasure of making music by providing members with the opportunity to learn and perform choral music to a high standard. We can promise you a challenging and rewarding musical experience. Some of our members can read music easily, others are on a learning curve, but our Director helps us to learn and we help each other.

Our History

The Society performs in the classical tradition and was formed in 1990 by the Director of Music of Sutton Valence School. We currently have about 60 members. The choir, with Bryan Gipps as its conductor, is a society where people can come and sing for the sheer joy of it all.

Musical Excellence

Each year you will have the opportunity to perform at least two major choral works with professional soloists and a professional orchestra as well as lesser-known works and lighter works. You can find a list of all the major works we have sung on our website – our repertoire is incredibly wide, ranging from Bach, Haydn and Mozart to Dvorak, Britten and Bernstein as well as including living composers like Karl Jenkins and Cecilia McDowall. Our Christmas carol concerts, and summer concerts are altogether lighter affairs - we have performed folk songs, Gilbert and Sullivan, opera choruses and even pop songs. Bryan Gipps, the Society's conductor is well known in the South-East as a conductor, violinist, organist, and singer. He brings a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to the chorus with which he has worked for over 15 years.

Organisation

We are a registered charity, formed with the aim of advancing, improving, developing, and maintaining public education and appreciation of the art and science of music in all its aspects, through the presentation of public concerts and recitals. Our Honorary President is James Thomas, the Headmaster of Sutton Valence School.

The choir is managed by a Committee consisting of the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer as well as up to nine other members. Members of the Committee are elected by all choir members at the Annual General Meeting and hold office for the calendar year following the meeting. They may be re-elected.

In addition, Voice Part Representatives are appointed for each voice part, to act as a point of contact and support for the choir members singing their voice part. You will find details of both your Voice Part Representative and the current Committee members in the Members Area of our website.

Concerts

The choir year is divided into three sessions, roughly corresponding to school terms, with concerts usually in November, December, March, and July. We also undertake workshops, carol concerts and charitable functions.

The dress code for concerts is as follows: Ladies - a long-sleeved black blouse or top with full-length black skirt or smart black trousers and black shoes. Ladies are provided with a SVCS satin corsage. Gentlemen - a black dinner suit, white shirt, black bow tie and black shoes. The dress code is usually modified for summer and Christmas concerts. You will also need to use a SVCS music folder at all concerts. These can be purchased from the Librarian at a cost of £7.

Rehearsals

We rehearse in a hard-working and happy atmosphere on Monday evenings (during term time) from 7.30pm – 9.30pm in the Groves Hall at Sutton Valence School, ME17 3HL. Free car parking is available in the main school car park. You can see the dates of all rehearsals and the rehearsal schedule in the Members Area of our website. During our rehearsal we have a short coffee break complete with biscuits, and lots of chat. After the rehearsal members sometimes gather for a glass of beer in the Queen's Head, Sutton Valence.

Everyone is expected to attend rehearsals regularly and to tick the attendance register each week. To ensure successful concerts, rehearsals are key. So, if you think you might miss more than two rehearsals, you should discuss your attendance at the concert with the conductor. There is always a rehearsal on the day of the concert, usually in the afternoon.

The conductor sometimes also arranges additional rehearsals for specific sections of the choir and members of particular voice parts are encouraged to arrange their own additional practices. Information about available on-line voice part rehearsal files is also posted on the Members Area of the website to assist individual learning.

Music Scores

You will find details of the music we will be performing in the coming year on our website. Scores will be available to hire for a small charge, or you may prefer to buy your own copies. Feel free to make light pencil markings on hired scores but, from time to time, please volunteer to join the working party which has to rub these out after concerts!

Everyone who hires music is expected to return it immediately after a concert (or at the last rehearsal they attend, if not singing in the concert). If you do not return a hired score on time, you will be asked to pay for a new copy.

Subscriptions

The annual membership subscription is currently £120 per annum payable by bank transfer to Sutton Valence Choral Society Sort Code: 53-81-51 Account: 01938088, or by handing a cheque to the Treasurer. If you prefer you can pay termly in which case the amount is £50, £50, and £20 per term. Alternatively, you can pay by monthly standing order. Please ask the Treasurer for further details. Subscriptions should be paid promptly and in any event before the fourth rehearsal of the year (or term if paying termly). If you pay income tax, you can help choir funds by signing a Gift Aid form so that basic rate tax can be reclaimed on part of your subscription.

Ticket sales

Concert ticket sales are a vital source of income for the Choir. Everyone is encouraged to sell as many tickets as possible via our Ticket Sales Administrator.

Social Events

We are a very sociable band of singers and, in addition to occasionally going to the pub together on Monday evenings, we run several social events during the year. At the end of the Autumn term there is a Christmas meal at a local venue, which is very well supported. It gives everyone a chance to chat and have some fun and after dinner games have become something of a tradition over the years.

Over the winter we hold a quiz evening at the School, which is popular and very competitive! In early summer, we walk between several local churches singing at each one, before finishing with a well-earned picnic lunch. Our annual summer BBQ is another great occasion for a get together and is hosted by a member of the choir.

Our charitable fund-raising

Each year we choose a local charity and raise money for it throughout the year. In this way, we have donated some £15,000 to charities over the last six years. Details of the charities we have supported, and the amounts raised for each of them are posted on the About Us section of our website.

Data Privacy

The data we hold about members is limited to email and postal addresses, telephone numbers and any other details supplied for the purposes of claiming Gift Aid on subscriptions. The data is held securely and only by appropriate members of the Committee or their nominees (for example a Voice Part Representative or the Librarian, should they not be Committee members). You can read the full text of our Privacy Statement in the Members Area of our website.

Further Information

The Choir's website and Facebook page are updated regularly and are an excellent way of keeping up to date with everything that is happening.

<https://www.suttonvalencechoral.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/SVCSoc/>

We hope you will enjoy singing with us.