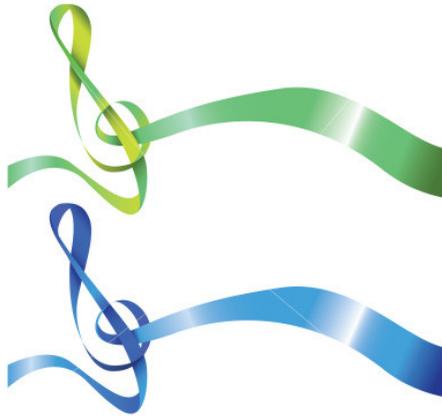


Opus XVI Chamber Choir



Welcome pack
2016 - 2017

**Information
for new and existing
choir members**

OPUS XVI CHAMBER CHOIR

WELCOME PACK

Welcome to OPUS XVI Chamber Choir!

We're delighted that you're interesting in joining the choir, and hope that you will decide to stay.

To help you get to know us and to find out how we operate, we have put together this welcome booklet, and hope you will find it useful.

Inside you will find the following:

- Choir information
- Recent concerts
- Constitution
- Choir Committee members
- This year's programme

Separate documents include:

- Choir contact details
- Recruitment poster for your friends

Please refer to our website: www.opus16.org.uk for more details.

OPUS XVI CHAMBER CHOIR

CHOIR INFORMATION

OPUS XVI Chamber choir was founded in 1979 by Colin Nicholls, and we gave our first concert on St Cecilia's Day in November that year. The choir takes its name from the fact that there were originally sixteen members, one of whom, Nicola Dobson (now Yarlett) still sings in the choir. George Woodcock, the choir's fifth Musical Director, has held the post since 1987.

Repertoire

The repertoire is wide-ranging and may be accompanied or a *capella*. Performances have included works by Franck Martin, Janacek, Kodaly, Nystedt, Glasser and Bernstein as well as Bach, Handel, Britten and Vaughan Williams and have entailed singing in Latin, Hebrew, German, old Czech, Norwegian and Zulu.

The choir is sometimes hired to sing at weddings and other events.

Concerts

We sing at least three concerts a year. Two of them feature music from the classical choral repertoire, while the third concert is our light-hearted Summer Supper Concert with a theme such as "The Wild West", "Heavenly Bodies" or A Night on the Ocean Wave". This concert is very popular with families, and the audience sits at candle-lit tables, with wine and soft drinks and a buffet meal during the interval.

The choir has performed with other choirs in the past. While the Musical Director was also conductor of the Hampstead Chamber Choir, Opus XVI performed several joint concerts, notably the Franck Martin - *Mass for Two Unaccompanied Choirs*, Tallis - *Lamentations* and Handel - *Israel in Egypt*, and we join the choir of All Saints West Dulwich for larger concerts.

Venues

Over the years, Opus XVI has given concerts in a number of local churches and church halls, in West Dulwich, Streatham, Norbury, Tulse Hill and Herne Hill. Summer concerts are usually held in a local school hall. We have no permanent base, but choose the venue according to the requirements of the programme, whether there is space for instrumentalists, quality of the organ, availability on the preferred dates, etc.

Rehearsals

We rehearse on Monday nights during school term times, in St Peter's Church vestry, Leigham Court Road, Streatham, SW16, from 8.0 until 10.0pm, with a short break for refreshments and notices. On the week of a concert we usually have an extra rehearsal on Thursday night and in the afternoon of the concert at the venue.

Singing experience

Prospective new members are encouraged to spend 3-4 choir practices with us, before taking a simple singing test with the Musical Director. They should demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Musical Director that they are able to:

- sing in tune;
- blend with the other voices;
- hold a part;
- sight-read to a minimum standard.

Solo opportunities arise in some of the classical concerts, where the aim is to use voices from within the choir as far as possible. This depends on the quality of the voice, experience of the singer, and the accompaniment. The summer concerts offer more opportunities for solo singing, as well as duets, quartets, etc, in this more light-hearted event.

Fundraising events

Inevitably income from concerts does not always cover our outgoings, so we arrange fundraising events to fill the gap. Always hugely enjoyable, in the past we have held a barn dance and an auction of promises. More recently, we have enjoyed running successful quiz nights and a joint Choral workshop with All Saints West Dulwich.

Management

The choir is run by a committee, comprising Chairperson, Hon Treasurer, Hon Secretary, and other choir members, who meet about once a term. The Musical Director also attends Committee meetings, but is not a member of the committee.

Dress code

Concert dress code for women is all black. Men wear a dinner jacket or black suit with white shirt and black bow tie.

The dress code for summer concerts is more informal. It can include all black skirts / trousers, with a bright shirt, decided by the Committee at least one month in advance of the concert. Other alternatives are discussed according to the concert theme.

Fees

Membership fees are agreed each year by the Committee, and are currently £200 per year. A reduced fee is agreed for people who are unwaged, while school students pay no fee at all.

The current Musical Director is a professional musician and his salary recognises that fact, as well as all the hard work he puts into the selection and arrangement of music, preparation for concerts, hiring instrumentalists and soloists when necessary and keeping us in tune!

A selection of recent Opus XVI Concerts

Summer 2016	<i>Naughty and Nice</i>
Easter 2016	Shakespeare Celebration Concert
Winter 2016	<i>Membra Jesu Nostrī</i> —Buxtehude, <i>Magnificat</i> —Pergolesi
Summer 2015	<i>Songs for Sea and Shore</i>
Easter 2015	An Evening of Gershwin
Winter 2015	<i>Ave Rex</i> —Mathias, <i>Requiem</i> —Duruflé
Summer 2013	<i>Night and Day</i>
Easter 2013	Carr “Ecce Homo” commissioned by Opus XVI
Winter 2013	Mozart “Little Mass in C”, Handel “Coronation Anthems”
Easter 2012	<i>Requiem</i> - Bob Chilcott; Gabriel Fauré
Winter 2012	Carr “The Epiphany” (first performance) and other music for the season of Epiphany
Summer 2011	<i>Summer Holidays</i>
Easter 2011	Purcell and Britten
Winter 2010	<i>The Christmas Story in Music</i>
Easter 2010	Bach “Mass in G”, Haydn “Marie Therese Mass”
Winter 2009	Charpentier “Messe de Minuit”, Corp “Christmas Mass”
Easter 2009	“The Road to Paradise”: Farrant, Child, Sweelinck, M Haydn, Brahms, Harris, Duruflé, Holst, Elgar, Poulenc etc
Winter 2008	Elgar “Great is the Lord”, Buxtehude “Missa Brevis”, Howells “Requiem”
Summer 2008	<i>Wild West Evening</i>
Easter 2008	Carr “Gloria”, Bach “Missa Brevis in F”, Haydn “St Nicholas Mass”
Winter 2007	Pergolesi “Stabat Mater”, Mozart “Regina Coeli”, Sweelinck, Poulenc, Wilcox, Bullard
Summer 2007	<i>The Seven Ages of Man</i>
Easter 2007	<i>Magnificat</i> - Pergolesi, Cui, Howells, Purcell, Schutz, Finzi, Vivaldi
Winter 2006	Britten “Ceremony of Carols”, Maw “3 Hymns”, Dvorak “Mass in D”
Summer 2006	<i>A Night at the Opera</i>

OPUS XVI CHAMBER CHOIR

CONSTITUTION

1. NAME

The name of the choir shall be OPUS XVI Chamber Choir, herein referred to as the Society.

2. OBJECTS

The objects of the Society shall be to promote, improve, develop and maintain public education in and appreciation of the art and science of music in all its aspects by the presentation of public concerts and recitals and by other such charitable ways as the Society through its Committee shall determine from time to time.

3. POWERS

In furtherance of the objects but not otherwise the Committee may exercise the following powers:

- a) power to raise funds and to invite contributions provided that in raising funds the Committee shall not undertake any substantial permanent trading activities and shall conform to any relevant requirements of the law;
- b) power to buy, take on lease or in exchange any property necessary for the achievement of the objects and to maintain and equip for its use;
- c) power to employ such staff (who shall not be members of the Committee) as are necessary for the proper pursuit of the objects and to make all reasonable and necessary provision for the payment of pensions and superannuation for staff and their dependents;
- d) power to co-operate with other charities, voluntary bodies

and statutory authorities operating in furtherance of the objects or of similar charitable purposes and to exchange information and advice with them;

- e) power to establish or support any charitable trusts, associations or institutions formed for all or any of the objects;
- f) power to appoint and constitute such advisory committees as the Committee may think fit;
- g) power to do all such lawful things as are necessary for the achievement of the objects.

4. MEMBERSHIP

The members of the Society shall be those who pay the subscriptions at the appropriate rate or rates as shall be determined by the Committee, all subscriptions being payable in advance, and who shall provide such evidence of musical ability as the Committee or Musical Director may require.

5. OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

The management of the Society shall be in the hands of a Committee consisting of a Chairman or Chairwoman, an Hon Secretary, and Hon Treasurer, and such other number of members as shall be determined by the Annual General meeting. The Officers and other Committee members shall be elected by and out of the Society's members at an Annual General Meeting; they shall hold office for one year and shall be eligible for re-election.

6. MUSICAL DIRECTOR

The Society shall appoint a Musical Director, and the Committee shall agree his or her remuneration.

In event of the position falling vacant, the Committee shall invite suitable candidates to audition. The successful candidate shall be chosen by a majority of those present and

voting at an Annual or Special General Meeting.

The Musical Director may not be voted out of office during the term of his or her appointment except by a two-third majority of those present and voting at an Annual or Special General Meeting.

7. MANAGEMENT

All the arrangement for the concerts and other events organised by the Society, and the control of the Society's finances shall be in the hands of the Committee.

8. FINANCE

- a) The financial year shall end on 30 June.
- b) A banking account shall be opened in the name of the Society. Four members, including the Hon Treasurer, will be appointed by the Committee as signatories, and cheques may be signed by any two of them.
- c) The Society may receive donation, grants in aid and financial guarantees, and tickets for any or all of its concerts and events may be offered for sale to the public.
- d) The income and property of the Society whencesoever derived shall be applied solely towards promoting the objects of the Society as set forth above and no portion thereof shall be paid or transferred either directly or indirectly to any member of members of the Society except in payment of legitimate expenses incurred on behalf of the Society.
- e) At the end of each financial year, the Committee will prepare and approve such report and accounts as are required by the Charities Act 1993 (or any statutory modification or re-enactment of the Act), and will have the accounts examined by a person independent of the Committee and submit them to the members at the Annual General meeting.

9. DISSOLUTION

In the event of the Society being wound up, any assets remaining upon the dissolution after payment of proper debts and liabilities shall be transferred to a charitable institution or institutions having similar objects to the Society.

10. GENERAL MEETINGS

Within six weeks of the end of each financial year the members shall be summoned to an Annual general Meeting, of which at least fourteen days' notice in writing shall have been given to all members, to elect Officers and Committee members, to receive the annual report of the Committee, to receive financial accounts and to transact any other business of which due notice shall have been given.

A Special General Meeting may be called by the Hon Secretary, giving fourteen days' notice in writing to all members, at which only that business specified in the notice may be transacted.

11. AMENDMENTS

The Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting at an Annual or Special General Meeting, provided that fourteen days' notice of the proposed amendment has been sent to all members, that no amendment to Clauses 2, 9 or 11 shall be made without the prior permission of the Charity Commission for England and Wales having been obtained in writing, and that nothing therein contained shall authorise any amendment which shall have the effect of the Society ceasing to be a charity.

OPUS XVI CHAMBER CHOIR

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Membership of the Committee is determined by vote at the Annual General Meeting, as stated in the Constitution. This meeting generally takes place in the week or two after the summer concert.

The current committee is made up as follows:

Officers:

Jo Reagan	Chair
Alan Littell	Hon Treasurer
Tessa Crilly	Hon Secretary

Other Committee members

Barbara Cunningham	Lesley Gibbs
Nici Yarlett	Chris Reilly



Summer concert 2016 — “Naughty and Nice”

Opus XVI Chamber Choir

PROGRAMME 2016 - 2017

7.30pm 28 January 2017
All Saints Church, West Dulwich

Scarlatti - Stabat Mater
Schütz - Magnificat

7.30pm 6 May 2017
All Saints Church, West Dulwich

Kodaly - Missa Brevis
Donald Swann - Requiem for the Living

7.30pm 1 July 2017
Venue to be advised

Traditional summer supper concert
on the theme of
“Change/Metamorphosis”

18 November 2017
All Saints West Dulwich

Choral workshop
led by Ruth Holton