

Richmondshire Choral Society

Information for applicants

Richmondshire Choral Society (www.richchoral.org.uk) Registered Charity No. 1019807) is a mixed-voice choral society which aspires to high standards in both performances and organisation. It has about 60 members whose age range reflects the area's demographic as a pleasant place to which to retire. It does have some younger members though other pressures can make their attendance less regular. However, they are generally very keen to sing with us and very supportive to the choir. There is a constant recruitment drive via press articles, social media and participatory events to attract more members.

The choir's origins go back to 1879 and in its history it has sung most of the great choral works, plus a number that have not achieved greatness. Details of its past performances are listed on the choir's website. It has had many Music Directors, some who have stayed for many years, others have been with us for a regrettably short time.

Repertoire is largely classical, ranging from Renaissance music to works recently composed. Some are well-known, some rarely performed. Repertoire does not include songs from the shows, pop song arrangements, opera choruses etc. which are the territory of several other local choirs.

Rehearsals take place on Monday evenings, currently 7.30 – 9.30pm in school term time, at Richmond Methodist Church, with the assistance of a professional accompanist. Occasional workshops or Come and Sing Days are organised providing the MD is prepared to lead them. They would not be an essential part of the job though are greatly enjoyed by the choir and often attract new members.

Currently there are two concerts per year, usually in March/April, and December. The accompaniment for concerts depends upon repertoire and finances. Instrumental ensembles are preferred but funds don't always make this practicable. Soloists come from a variety of sources e.g. personal contacts made at other choirs' concerts, MD's contacts, RNCM soloist scheme, talented young local singers entering or about to enter the profession or from our list of soloists who have contacted us with their details. The choir normally performs in St Mary's Church, Richmond but occasionally uses Richmond School and has used the Garden Rooms at Tennants for one performance. Other potential venues are kept in mind but would be used reluctantly.