**Appointment of Musical Director from January 2025**

**Information for Applicants**

**About Wimborne Choral Society**

Wimborne Choral Society was founded in 1978, by Christopher Dowie (at the time Organist and Master of the Choristers at Wimborne Minster Church), with the object “*to promote ... public education in and appreciation of ... music in all its aspects by the presentation of public concerts and recitals ...*".

Chris has continued as the society’s Musical Director for 46 years, and he reflects on his philosophy for the choir:

*“At the heart of Wimborne Choral Society are the following ideas:-*

*1 Everyone can sing.*

*2 Tone deafness does not exist.*

*3 No auditions are required for entry to the choir.*

*4 Sight reading ability, though helpful, is not a top priority.*

*5 No-one should be excluded from membership because they can’t afford*

*the subscription. This can always be handled quietly and discreetly*

*by the Chairman and Treasurer.”*

WCS is a friendly, mixed voice choir, currently with approximately 60 members, although it has been as high as 120. Rebuilding post-Covid is a challenge for us as for many, and the growth in availability of choirs in a variety of styles provides us with healthy competition! New singers are always welcome - no auditions required. We sing many of the major classic works as well as music by contemporary composers.

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We generally perform three concerts per year in Wimborne Minster, often accompanied by Wimborne Chamber Orchestra, with professional or semi-professional soloists, or with organ accompaniment. A full list of previous concerts is available on our website, but as an illustration the programme for 2024 is:

**Saturday 23rd March 2024**

Joseph Haydn               Insanae et Vanae Curae

Benjamin Britten         Rejoice in the Lamb, Op.30

Anton Bruckner           Locus Iste, Christus Factus Est (Geistliche Chöre)

John Rutter                   Requiem

Christopher Dowie      A Prayer

**Saturday 29th June 2024 :  *“A CELEBRATION OF DOWIE”***

Christopher Dowie      A Song for St Cecilia

Edward Elgar                Sursum Corda

C.H.H. Parry                  Blest Pair Of Sirens

**Saturday 30th November 2024 :  *"A JOURNEY THOUGH MOZART AND BACH"***

Wolfgang A. Mozart     Requiem

J.S. Bach                          Kyrie, Dona Nobis Pacem (B Minor Mass)

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Each year we perform a carol singing slot as part of Wimborne’s Christmas charitable events. We have also hosted a number of successful ‘Come and Sing’ workshops. The choir has previously performed abroad (although not recently) in Czechoslovakia, The Hague and Normandy. We have also joined with other choirs for larger choral events, such as at Stourhead (N.T.) and, during its time, The Dorset Guild of Singers in The Lighthouse.

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We rehearse Thursday evenings, (term-time only) in Wimborne Methodist Church (7.30pm-9.30pm). During concert week we have an additional evening rehearsal (currently Wednesday); the Thursday rehearsal is held in the Minster, and a ‘tutti’ rehearsal is held on Saturday afternoon together with the accompanists and soloists, attendance at which is compulsory for all members intending to sing in that concert.

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The choir is governed by a charitable trust, with volunteer officers from the choir committee as trustees. The AGM is held in place of a Thursday rehearsal each year in late September/early October, with all members encouraged to attend. The committee is responsible for all non-musical activities of the choir, including social events, fundraising and managing Friends of the Choir. The committee is the body responsible for the recruitment of the new Musical Director, under the direction of its Chair Marion Brown.