



### **Poringland Singers**

The Poringland Singers, a mixed voice choir, started on 10 January 1986 with about 25 members. The repertoire then included sacred works, some Gilbert and Sullivan and a carol service at Christmas in the local school. Under the direction of several conductors the choir's repertoire developed with performances in and around Norwich.

The current Musical Director, Ian Elliott, joined in January 2004. With a present membership of over 60 (drawn from a wide area), we now have a broad repertoire which includes sacred works, popular classics, contemporary songs and songs from the shows. We have performed in venues throughout East Anglia and also travelled to Ireland and the Isle of Man to sing. Our repertoire also suits weddings and an ensemble, drawn from the whole choir, attends several each year.

### **Concert Dress**

#### **GENTLEMEN**

Dinner suit with white shirt and black bow tie OR black shirt with coloured tie or no tie. Black shoes and socks. Dress to be confirmed before each event. The choir has some coloured ties to provide on loan.

#### **LADIES**

##### **Concerts:**

JACKETS – Black. Jackets are not mandatory. However, if choosing to wear one it should be V-necked, with or without collar (NOT round necked). Long or  $\frac{3}{4}$  sleeve.

TOP (if wearing a jacket throughout the concert) - Black or black with a little silver (**NOT** a high round neck). Sleeve length of your choice

TOP (if **not** wearing a jacket, or if jacket may be taken off) - Black or black with a little silver. V or scoop necked (**NOT** a high round neck). Long or  $\frac{3}{4}$  sleeve (**NOT** above the elbow)

TROUSERS - Black. Full length

SKIRTS – Black. Full or  $\frac{3}{4}$  length

FOOTWEAR – Black. Shoes. (**NOT** heavy winter boots)

HOSIERY – plain black (**NOT** patterned) must be worn at all events. Tights, stockings, knee-highs, long black socks. The key is that no flesh colour can be seen when standing or sitting.

JEWELLERY - 'Bling'. Diamonté, silver or silver/black. NO coloured stones/beads

#### **WEDDINGS/FUNERALS** –

As above but plain black tops. Shorter skirts (but not above the knee) can be worn, but please observe the note about black hosiery.

Jewellery – although 'pearls' are preferred, a simple silver or gold cross can be worn as an alternative. (NO scarves)

## **AD HOC –**

Occasionally we use a basic plain white top, full or ¾ length sleeves. Likewise a scarf (pastels or bold). It would be useful, if you do not have these currently, to pick something up as you see it. Supermarket or charity shop buys are quite acceptable.

## **PLEASE NOTE – MEMBERS ARE REQUESTED TO ADHERE TO THE CONCERT DRESS UNIFORM.**

### **Performance Protocol**

We aspire to a high level of professionalism, therefore please observe the performance protocol at all times, unless changed by the Musical Director due to venue restrictions.

- Members to be assembled off-stage 15 minutes before the performance
- Members to line up in their correct seating order ready to file on stage row by row
- Once on stage, members should remain standing until the Musical Director gives the signal
- At any interval, or at the end of the performance, members should file off professionally to back stage
- Music folders and water bottles are to be kept with members at all times and not left on-stage
- No bags to be taken on stage. Where there is nowhere secure at the venue, a container will be provided by the choir for bags and kept secure until after the event
- To maintain a professional approach, we request that members refrain from going 'front of house' from when doors open to the audience, during any interval and until after we have filed off back-stage at the performance close
- Any concerns on the day should be brought to the attention of the appropriate section Representative ONLY who will, if necessary, make the Musical Director aware

Perfume, hairspray, after-shave & body sprays – AWARENESS Whilst there is no ban on the use of perfume, hairspray, after-shave and body sprays, we would ask members to be considerate to those who are affected by these. Please wear lighter fragrances and avoid over-use in confined spaces.

### **Subscriptions and Funding**

Subscriptions are currently £18 per term, with the choir year comprising three terms. These can either be paid in full to the Treasurer promptly at the start of each term by cash or cheque, or by monthly standing order (£4.50 per month). The Treasurer can provide a standing order form for your completion and return.

To maintain subscriptions at the current low level, it would be helpful for members to purchase their own score where these are not available from the County Music Library. We can obtain a group discount in most instances.

### **Sheet Music**

Sheet music is an expensive commodity. Scores are distributed during the season and members are expected to look after them themselves. Where library copies are used (either Poringland Singers or County Music Library), these must be returned, free of pencil markings, to the choir Librarian by the first rehearsal following the concert/event.

**It is vital that County Music Library scores are returned to the choir Librarian on time. Members not returning their music, for whatever reason, will be expected to fund any charge, whether this is a late return fee or the cost of a replacement score.**

Upon ceasing to be a member of the choir, **all** sheet music belonging to the choir must be returned or charges will, unfortunately, apply.

### Rehearsals and Absenteeism

Rehearsals are held at The Church of Our Lady, Poringland each Tuesday evening during the choir year, unless otherwise advised. They commence at **7.20pm promptly** for vocal warm-up exercises, in time for a 7.30pm start. Rehearsals end at approximately 9.00pm.

**On the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month, rehearsals start at the earlier time of 7.00pm** and are split to allow different voice parts (or smaller groups/soloists) to practice separately. The whole choir comes together at 8.00pm for the final hour.

There may be additional rehearsals, or earlier starts to scheduled ones, on an ad-hoc basis.

All members are expected to do their utmost to attend all rehearsals, to arrive on time in order for a prompt start and to sign the attendance registers. Advance notice of any absenteeism would be appreciated either to the Musical Director or Secretary. Everyone is expected to do independent 'home work' between rehearsals in order to maintain good progress and to avoid going over too much old ground at rehearsal. Anyone having any difficulty with their part in the music is invited to bring it to the attention of their part rep or the music team to explore the possibility of extra part rehearsals at another time.

**Members should be aware they may be asked to miss a concert/event if they do not attend sufficient rehearsals or reach the required level of proficiency.**

### Auditions, Performances and Event Invitations

It is not choir policy to hold formal auditions for membership. Potential new members will be invited to attend a practice evening after discussing membership with the Musical Director.

Members will be made aware of up-coming events and asked to confirm their availability to attend. This will be either via a function register at rehearsals OR an on-line invitation sent to members' email address. Those without web access will be asked in person.

The choir performs 'full choir' concerts in each of its three terms (Autumn/Christmas, Spring, Summer). Within concerts it is usual for semi-chorus, solo or duet items to be included to add variety. The choir also receives invitations to perform at venues where the attendance of the whole choir is not practical or appropriate. These will still be under the auspices of the Poringland Singers as long as any income generated is passed to choir funds.

The Musical Director is responsible for selecting the appropriate grouping (ensemble, semi-chorus, duet or solo) and will communicate this to those involved. Participation in any of these groups is not exclusive, but at the discretion of the Musical Director and this may be subject to audition. Any member is invited to express their interest in being considered. The music team is happy to work with those not yet reaching the required performance level.

### Choir Protocol

An AGM is held every September where relevant issues or concerns may be freely discussed. All comments are valid as every member's view is appreciated. Alongside the statutory Officers, a representative for each choir part is elected in order for members' views to be represented at the regular committee meetings.

## New Members

All prospective new members are to be contacted by the Musical Director who will then invite them to attend a rehearsal and details of membership explained. New members will be given four weeks in which to decide whether they wish to join and are not expected to pay any subscriptions until then. A registration form will be issued for completion and return to the Secretary in order for personal data to be added to the membership list. Until registered, new members may be required to hand in their music on a weekly basis.

Upon registration, new members will be granted access to the secure members area of the choir website ([www.poringlandsingers.org.uk](http://www.poringlandsingers.org.uk)) where they will have access to useful contact and other information.

**Please remember to welcome and look after new members. It would be considerate to be flexible over seating arrangements so they do not feel isolated.**

## Social Committee

We have an active Social Committee which encourages everyone to participate in events they arrange. They would greatly value and welcome suggestions or new ideas.

## Event Logistics

Extra help for setting up and dismantling staging, lights or seating is always invaluable. If any member is willing to volunteer to do this on a regular basis, they will be greatly appreciated.

## Further information may be obtained from:

<b>MD:</b>	Ian Elliott.	<a href="mailto:ian@poringlandsingers.org.uk">ian@poringlandsingers.org.uk</a> tel: 07841 847890
<b>Chairman:</b>	Trevor Beckford	<a href="mailto:trevor@poringlandsingers.org.uk">trevor@poringlandsingers.org.uk</a>
<b>Secretary:</b>	Nita Bradley	<a href="mailto:nita@poringlandsingers.org.uk">nita@poringlandsingers.org.uk</a>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Nicola Fowler	<a href="mailto:nicola_fowler@talk21.com">nicola_fowler@talk21.com</a>
<b>Librarian:</b>	David Catchpole	<a href="mailto:catchpole_dc@hotmail.com">catchpole_dc@hotmail.com</a>

## Part Reps:

<b>Soprano</b>	Hazel Coupland	<a href="mailto:hazel.coupland@googlemail.com">hazel.coupland@googlemail.com</a>
<b>Alto</b>	Deborah Andrew	<a href="mailto:deborah@poringlandsingers.org.uk">deborah@poringlandsingers.org.uk</a>
<b>Tenor</b>	Chris Clifford	<a href="mailto:chris@poringlandsingers.org.uk">chris@poringlandsingers.org.uk</a>
<b>Bass</b>	Jon Brompton	<a href="mailto:jon@poringlandsingers.org.uk">jon@poringlandsingers.org.uk</a>

**Social Committee Lead:** John Westwood    [outerspacedesigns@gmail.com](mailto:outerspacedesigns@gmail.com)

**PLEASE ensure any change of contact information is relayed to the Secretary as soon as possible. Thank You.**