



WESTBURY AND DISTRICT CHORAL SOCIETY

*MEMBER OF MAKING MUSIC, THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF MUSIC SOCIETIES
REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 1028041*

Musical Director Information

1. Westbury Choral wishes to recruit a new Musical Director from September 2025. The successful candidate will be an experienced, enthusiastic Musical Director who shares our love of great choral music and will bring their own energy, inspiration, and creativity to the choir. The current conductor has been in post for 14 years and is standing down due to family and work commitments.
2. The Society is a Charity and is affiliated to Making Music. It was formed around 1925 and, whereas the emphasis has been on classical choral works, Westbury Choral has also provided the community with a varied programme encompassing different styles.
3. With a current membership of around 40 (SATB), it rehearses September to April (with a summer break) at Westbury Methodist Church on Wednesday evenings 19:30-21:30 (with 15-minute tea/coffee break), to perform two main concerts a year. The established pattern consists of a Christmas Concert at Westbury Methodist Church and a Spring Concert at Westbury Parish Church. The Society has also performed for several years at the Festival of Carols at St. Giles' Church, Imber. In addition, the Society occasionally performs at other events, including Westbury Festival and the Christmas lights switch-on. This year is an exciting year to join Westbury Choral as we celebrate our centenary.
4. Westbury Choral run one or two 'Come and Sing' events each year. These are workshops led by the Musical Director, which usually include works being sung in a forthcoming concert. This gives members an additional opportunity to rehearse, but also opens the opportunity for non-members to attend as a one-off. In the past, this has encouraged new members to join.
5. A list of the main works performed over the past few years can be found on our website: <https://westburychoral.org.uk/Hear-Us/>. Westbury Choral maintains a library of choral works, which is supplemented by hiring from the Public Library. The Musical Director is responsible for programming, in consultation with the committee and members.
6. Ed Cooke is the accompanist for rehearsals. A concert pianist/organist is engaged for performances. The Society has established a special fund for use of instrumentalists from time-to-time, which may be used for soloists or a small orchestral group, as appropriate.

7. A friendly welcome is offered to all new members and the encouragement given for a commitment of regular attendance in order to maintain the high standard Westbury Choral achieves. The approach adopted at rehearsals is to begin with a short warm-up session of exercises, which includes an element of instruction on choral techniques. Emphasis is then placed on the shape and intricacies to develop each piece during the rehearsal. Members are asked to undertake personal study, particularly leading up to a concert and the use of recordings and rehearsal files for each part have been found to be of assistance for the more complex works.
8. The Musical Director is contracted on a freelance basis. The current honorarium paid to the Musical Director is £55 for each rehearsal and £110 for each concert. An addition of £20 is paid, should the accompanist be unable to attend. The Musical Director is asked to attend committee meetings (approx. 4 per year) and to present a report at the Annual General Meeting. Currently, no honorarium is paid for these meetings.
9. To obtain further information or to apply for the position, please contact Allison Smith (Chairperson) at info@westburychoral.org.uk