

# Buckden Singers

## Buckden Singers – Information for New Members

**Welcome** to Buckden Singers! I hope you enjoy your first rehearsal with us. This information sheet has been put together to try to answer any initial questions you may have.

**History:** 'Buckden Singers' is a non-auditioned, community choir, established in January 2007 to give all members of the community the opportunity to sing. Since our initial meeting of 12 people, we have developed into a four part choir of more than 40 members. We have concerts each year in July and at Christmas, and we lead the Carol Services at Threshfield and Hubberholme Churches. We have also supported many local events, Grassington Festival, Dickensian Festival, Olympic Torch, Armed Forces Day, to name but a few. In addition we have made a number of T.V. and radio appearances, most notably in ITV's 'The Dales'.

**Repertoire:** We sing a very mixed selection of music, from classical to musicals, to light popular music, in the hope that there will be something for everyone, both in the choir and in our audiences. We decide on themes many months before the concerts and these are always discussed with the choir, who are free to make suggestions as to suitable pieces. The final decision as to what we sing does, however, rest with the Conductor and the advisory team. We cannot change pieces to cater for the tastes of individual members.

**Rehearsals:** We rehearse on a Thursday evening during school term-time. Rehearsals are from 7.30pm – 9.15pm with a short break in the middle. Rehearsals normally take place in Buckden Village Institute but are occasionally moved to Buckden Schoolroom or the Churches at Hubberholme or Threshfield. We fully appreciate that work, family, illness and holidays can prevent attendance at rehearsals, but we do ask that you make rehearsals a priority and attend regularly. It is a really helpful planning aid if you can let us know if you cannot attend.

**Subs:** We exist under the umbrella of Buckden Village Institute and therefore manage to keep costs to a minimum. All our profits are put back into the Institute. However we do ask for a subscription of £20 annually which helps to cover the cost of the music we buy or hire from Yorkshire or Hull Music Libraries. This is paid in January or upon joining.

**Communication:** Our normal means of communication is by email and occasionally you may be sent material to print out. If you do not have access to email, or a printer, we ask that you have a choir 'buddy' and arrange for communications to be dealt with on your behalf.

**Accompanist:** We no longer have a full time accompanist, but are fortunate in that John Cowpe plays for us at concerts, attends rehearsals on an 'ad hoc' basis, and records accompaniments and parts for us to use at rehearsals. Martin Weisskopf, Alan Ramsey, Julian Rangeley and Peter Vetch then ensure the music is available for us to use at rehearsals and is available on the Buckden Singers website for practice at home.

**Dress Code:** This varies slightly from concert to concert but is usually all black with either a red or pink scarf/bow tie. These are provided. Occasionally we wear black and white or even more occasionally might dress to suit the music we are singing.

*I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to our rehearsal this evening. There is absolutely no obligation to join us but I hope at least you enjoy your evening with us. Please do let us know if you plan on returning ....or not!*

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