Collegium Laureatum

Enrolment 2026-27

It is now time to start a new year for Collegium. This document describes our current plans for the forthcoming year. We may need to change these if circumstances change. This will depend on the logistics of rehearsals and the number of members who have enrolled.

New members: You are welcome to try out the choir for 1 or 2 weeks at the beginning of the term. You can borrow music while you try us out.

Enrolment

Enrolment will be for the full year. We are continuing the "Home Singing" category of membership for people who would like to join in rehearsals online rather than attending in person. Note that Home Singing members will not be eligible to sing in the concert.

Full membership: £260 (minimum) (This can be paid in two instalments of £130)

Home Singing membership: £60

In order to arrange for the printing of the music it would be helpful if you could enrol by 1 September.

Please return your completed enrolment form to Eleanor Pippard either by email (pipparde@gmail.com) or by post (80 Bishops Road, Trumpington, Cambridge, CB2 9NH).

Subscriptions

Last year, due a good financial year, the committee decided not to increase the subscription. However, during the year both choir membership and ticket sales were lower than budgeted for and we had to take £7000 out of our reserves, which is not sustainable. We need to attract more members and sell more tickets if we are to keep the subscriptions as low as we would like. Meanwhile, though, we need to increase the subscription for this year.

If we raised the annual subscription for 2026-7 to the break-even point, based on current membership and predicted ticket-sales, it would be about £320. We are aware that although this compares favourably with many other organisations, it represents a substantial increase. We have therefore decided to set a **minimum** level of subscription at £260 and ask those who can afford it to pay a higher amount, bearing in mind the break-even cost of membership. The £30 minimum increase is about 90p extra per rehearsal, or about £2.60 extra per rehearsal if paying £320, which we feel is still good value.

Over the last few years many members have generously given donations on top of their subscriptions which have enabled the choir to continue, and to book excellent players and soloists to enhance the concerts for us all.

The subscription can either be paid in full or in two instalments (September 2026 and January 2027). Donations can be made at any point during the year according to your circumstances, but making donations at the same time as subscriptions would help the committee plan ahead.

Members under 35 may claim a half-price subscription of £130, and bursaries are also available for anyone unable to afford the minimum subscription.

As we are a registered charity, all subscriptions and donations are eligible for Gift Aid if you pay income tax or capital gains tax, and this may decrease your own tax liability. Gift Aid on the 2025-26 subs has brought in about £2000 which is a great help. I have indicated on the enrolment form whether you have completed a Gift Aid form. If you have not completed a form, I have attached the form.

Additional members will not only enhance our sound but also decrease our expenditure from reserves. So please do invite your friends to join us.

Payment of subscriptions should, preferably, be paid by bank transfer (details on your enrolment form). Alternatively, please send a cheque payable to Collegium Laureatum to Eleanor Pippard, 80 Bishops Road, Trumpington, Cambridge, CB2 9NH. If you pay income tax or capital gains tax and have not yet signed a Gift

Aid form we would like to encourage you to do so. It is the government's preferred method for subsidising amateur music and brings in a significant amount of money each year. Additional donations are always gratefully received.

Bursaries

If paying the full subscription cost is prohibitive to you, the choir has a bursary scheme available. Please speak, in confidence, to Eleanor Pippard (membership@collegium.org.uk) or Philip Blakely (treasurer@collegium.org.uk) for more details. We do not want anyone to feel that they cannot join us because of their financial circumstance.

Rehearsals

Autumn Term: Mondays 14 September – 7 December (7.30pm – 9.30pm)

No rehearsal Monday 26 October

Friday 11 December (7.30pm – 9.30pm) (Compulsory)

Concert (with afternoon rehearsal 2pm – 5pm) Saturday 12 December

Spring Term: Mondays 4 January – 29 March (7.30pm – 9.30pm) (Easter Monday is 28 March)

No rehearsal Monday 15 February

Friday 2 April (7.30pm – 9.30pm) (Compulsory)

Concert (with afternoon rehearsal 2pm – 5pm) Saturday 3 April

Summer Term: Monday 19 April – 28 June (7.30pm – 9.30pm)

No rehearsal 31 May

Friday 2 July (7.30pm – 9.30pm) (Compulsory)

Concert (with afternoon rehearsal 2pm – 5pm) Saturday 3 July

Monday rehearsals are in the Wilkinson Room, Church of St John the Evangelist, Hills Road, Cambridge, CB2 8RN (Corner of Blinco Grove and Hills Road).

Any additional pre-concert rehearsals will be notified nearer the time.

To enable us to provide a Home Singing membership, we will be live-streaming the rehearsals.

Rehearsal attendance:

As we do not audition members, but work to perform concerts to a high standard, it is important that everyone knows the works well and that we sing as a coherent whole, not as a series of individual singers. This means rehearsing together, listening to each other and being used to blending our voices with others in our section. Standardising our pronunciation is part of this, but repeatedly rehearsing together is the major component.

Therefore, it is important that members are present at rehearsals. Of course, if anyone has an infectious illness they should not attend rehearsals – you can participate from home as rehearsals are live-streamed. We do not have a firm limit about the number of rehearsals that can be missed but we have the following policy:

Members should aim to miss no more than two rehearsals per term, preferably don't miss any.

If a member misses a significant number of rehearsals during the term they need to seek Ian's permission to perform in the concert. In general, this would mean discussing it with Ian if more than 2 or 3 in-person rehearsals have been missed.

Concerts and Music Editions:

Members are expected to buy their own music. This is either commercially (such as Presto CD, Scorestore or Amazon) or via the choir where Ian has produced his own vocal score for us.

Christmas Concert:

Date: Saturday 12 December 7.30pm

Venue: West Road concert hall

Programme: Handel: Messiah Part 1

(New Novello, Watkins Shaw – preferred edition – about £12)

Charpentier Messe de Minuit:

(Ian's edition is essential – provided by the choir, about £5)

Easter Concert:

Date: Saturday 3 April 7.30pm

Venue: West Road concert hall

Programme: Haydn: Harminiemesse (Wind Band Mass)

(New Novello, Pilkington – preferred edition – about £18.50)

Beethoven: Mass in C

(New Novello, Pilkington – preferred edition – about £15.50)

Summer Concert:

Date: Saturday 3 July 7.30pm

Venue: West Road concert hall

Programme: Handel: Coronation Anthems

(Oxford University Press, Bartlett – essential edition – about £18.50)

Other coronation anthems

(Ian's edition is essential – provided by the choir, about £5)