



## **Accompanist – Hailsham Choral Society**

### **Background:**

Hailsham Choral Society is an amateur choir of about 60 members based in Hailsham, East Sussex.

We are looking for a skilled and sensitive keyboard player with good sight-reading and score-reading skills to start in September 2019. Ability to play the organ would be an advantage. The successful candidate should be able to work well as part of a team, collaborating with the Musical Director and Committee and providing support to the choir.

The Accompanist is paid an annual Honorarium to cover rehearsals, as well as a separate fee for performing in each concert which varies depending on the programme. (Details available on request).

Our choir website is: <http://hailshamchoral.org>

### **Job description:**

#### **1. to play at weekly rehearsals, workshops and at concerts as required;**

##### **(a) Rehearsals**

The choir rehearses on Thursday nights in Hailsham from 7.30pm-9.30pm under the direction of the Musical Director or assistant MD. We have our own keyboard which is stored at the rehearsal venue.

There are about 40 rehearsals in a typical year.

For our two Eastbourne concerts, the final Thursday night rehearsal is held at the venue in All Saints Church, Eastbourne.

##### **(b) Workshops x 2**

These are currently held on a Saturday about mid-way through the rehearsal season for the spring and autumn concerts, and run from about 10am-4pm with a break for lunch. They currently take place in Arlington, a village close to Hailsham.

### (c) Concerts

As a guide, the choir currently has a pattern of four concerts a year: in late March, late June, early November and Christmas. The timetable for the next year is available on our website:

<http://hailshamchoral.org/members.html>

The March concert is our biggest performance of the year when we engage professional soloists and an orchestra. Recent performances have included Haydn's Creation and Bach's St John Passion. Because Hailsham does not have a venue large enough, the spring concert is held in All Saints Church Eastbourne.

Summer is usually a lighter concert in Hailsham with piano accompaniment. A typical program would include a performance of folk songs, opera choruses, Gershwin, Cole Porter, etc, with small solo items performed by choir members. Our assistant MD usually takes some rehearsals and shares the conducting in the performance.

Our November concert also takes place in Eastbourne with a more major classical work, normally with professional soloists as the budget allows. We cannot afford an orchestra, so the accompaniment is normally piano or organ.

The Christmas concert is held in Hailsham Parish Church after a short rehearsal season taken by the assistant MD, with piano accompaniment.

In every other year we also perform a Good Friday concert in Hailsham Parish Church with an organ accompaniment, e.g. Stainer's Crucifixion. This is done on very limited rehearsal time.

2. **To be willing to take rehearsals on the rare occasion neither MD nor assistant MD are available.**
3. **to be prepared to play at ad-hoc concerts and events as required.**

We sometimes do additional concerts outside the normal pattern, for example taking part in the Mayor's concert for the Hailsham Festival, or putting on a joint concert with the choir from Hailsham's twin town of Gournay-en-Bray, France.

Often these concerts need a piano accompaniment, for which we pay a separate fee.

### **Applications:**

If you are interested, please apply by email to [hcsinfo@hailshamchoral.org](mailto:hcsinfo@hailshamchoral.org) with your CV and a covering letter.

May 2019