

# hertfordshire chorus

We are one of the finest large choirs in the country, with over 130 members from across Hertfordshire, surrounding counties and London. We offer a high standard of varied music in a fun and friendly atmosphere. We have a large number of young members and are always looking for good singers of all ages to join us. We are very friendly and welcoming and sing a wide range of music from new commissions to classic favourites, in top local, London and national venues. We also provide choirs and small groups of singers for gigs and recordings

Chorus Musical Director, David Temple, is renowned for his talent, inspiration and enthusiasm. David has a fresh approach to music making and a strong desire to make classical music accessible to wider audiences. He is well known for his innovative programming, combining rarer pieces with favourites. Chorus accompanist Charles Andrews is also a virtuoso organist, and plays with us in concerts, both on piano and organ.



David Temple, Musical Director

Singers audition on entry and the whole choir re-auditions every three years.

We have a special fund to commission new music, maintaining and developing choral singing for the future. We are particularly proud of the work we do with children, to help encourage the next generation of choral singers and music enthusiasts.

We sing in some of the top venues in the UK with appearances in the Royal Albert Hall, the Royal Festival Hall, the Barbican, the Queen Elizabeth Hall and The Sage Gateshead, as well as concerts in and around Hertfordshire, including St Albans Cathedral.



Rehearsing at the Royal Festival Hall

## friendly singers

We are a friendly and welcoming choir and enjoy socialising after rehearsals on a Wednesday and at other times when we can. What better way to meet people than to sing music alongside them and share that post-concert buzz!

“Choral singing wasn't my scene until a friend dragged me along to a Hertfordshire Chorus recruitment evening. That was a couple of years ago when I had finished university and now I'm hooked. Since then I have sung in Italy, Spain, Poland and all the top London venues. I've made some of the best friends ever!”



Angela, soprano

## great tours

We regularly travel abroad and across the UK on tours that offer music making, sightseeing and socialising. Tours are an ideal way to meet people - and sing in some wonderful venues, like the Duomo in Florence. We have toured to Bruges, Italy (Garda, Venice, Sicily, Tuscany and Umbria), Poland (Krakow), Spain (Granada, Seville and Valencia), Israel, Rhodes, France and Germany, as well as Durham, Newcastle and Cambridge.



Todi - concert venue on our Umbria tour

## join us!

If you have a good voice, sound musicality and a quick ear, and want to sing with a dynamic choir, then try Hertfordshire Chorus. We always welcome new people, so why not experience an evening singing with us? You can come along to any rehearsal on Wednesday evenings from 7:30pm till 10pm at Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School, Woods Avenue, Hatfield, Herts AL10 8NL, or you can look out for one of our special recruitment evenings.

To find out more, contact the recruitment team on 01462 491647 or email [membership@hertfordshirechorus.org.uk](mailto:membership@hertfordshirechorus.org.uk)

## what do we sing?

We sing a wide variety of music: Eric Whitacre *Sleep*, Jonathan Dove *The Passing of the Year*, Beethoven *Missa Solemnis*, Tippett *A Child of Our Time*, Mahler *8th Symphony*, Britten *War Requiem*, Berlioz *Grande Messe des Morts*, John Adams *Harmonium*, Elgar *The Kingdom*, Tallis *Spem in Alium*, Will Todd *The Burning Road*.

We have also commissioned many works - Orlando Gough's *Ice*, Will Todd's setting of *Ode to a Nightingale* and his *Mass in Blue*, Roland Perrin's *Songs from the Cage*, Howard Haigh's *Land of Light*, and Steve Block's *Solaris* - and are thrilled that other choirs perform them too.



Recordings of Hertfordshire Chorus commissions

## concerts - and more

- Singing with Noel Gallagher on his 2012 'High Flying Birds' tour
- Recording for the Coldstream Guards
- Singing in *Spooks*
- Appearing with José Carreras
- Performing with Daniele Gatti and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in the Royal Albert Hall
- BBC Proms
- Recording at Abbey Road
- BBC Radio 2 broadcast 'At the Foot of the Cross'
- Singing 'Last Night of the Proms' in Rochester Castle



On tour with Noel Gallagher



Recording a soundtrack at Abbey Road studios

for more information about the choir visit  
[www.hertfordshirechorus.org.uk](http://www.hertfordshirechorus.org.uk)

“there can be few  
to touch them...”

“The finest performance of *The Kingdom* that I have ever heard, or can ever hope to hear.”

MARTIN BIRD, *ELGAR SOCIETY*  
Elgar *The Kingdom*: St Albans Cathedral

“Astounding. Splendidly immediate and vivid. The Chorus was magnificent, as was the orchestra.”

BARRY COLLETT, *ELGAR SOCIETY*  
Elgar *The Apostles*: St Albans Cathedral

“What an excellent evening. I thought the choir was on brilliant form. I was thrilled with the performance of *Ice*.”

ORLANDO GOUGH, *COMPOSER*  
Orlando Gough *Ice*: Haileybury College

“A reading of real authority from David Temple and the Hertfordshire Chorus. ... the quality of their training and pacing obviously shows through.”

DR BRIAN HICK, *THE ORGAN*  
Beethoven *Missa Solemnis*: St Albans Cathedral

“Really splendid!”

JOHN RUTTER, CBE  
Will Todd *Mass In Blue*, Brahms *Ein Deutsches Requiem*:  
Barbican Hall

“A truly inspirational evening...The whole programme was a delight... Hertfordshire Chorus suggested to me last year at the Barbican, in a spectacular performance of the *Mass In Blue* they commissioned from Will Todd, that they can hold their own against any choir in the land. This year at the Royal Festival Hall my view was confirmed.”

HELEN WRIGHT, *MUSICOMH*  
Holst *Hymn to Jesus*, Berlioz *Te Deum*, Tallis *Spem in Alium*:  
Royal Festival Hall

“The quality of singing was a joy...an unforgettable experience.”

HAROLD HUGHES, OBE, *THE BERLIOZ SOCIETY*  
Berlioz *Grande Messe des Morts*: St Albans Cathedral

who needs prozac  
when you can sing  
prokofiev?

Why feel the blues when you can shake them off by singing the blues? Studies have shown that choral singing increases immunity, reduces depression, improves cognitive function, lowers stress levels and releases endorphins, the feel-good hormones. A joint Harvard and Yale study even found that it increases life expectancy by promoting a healthy heart and a better state of mind.

Becoming so thoroughly absorbed in something that you forget everything else is a very effective agent of wellbeing. Watching TV or lying in the bath won't get you there. You need to be challenged and stretched. Then, when you get it exactly right, you experience the spiritual equivalent of the “ping” that a tennis racket makes on a brilliant shot.

Choral singing is good for the body, and good for the soul... So - make it a resolution to sing!

*adapted from an article in The Times*

find out more at

[www.hertfordshirechorus.org.uk](http://www.hertfordshirechorus.org.uk)



*Hertfordshire Chorus is a registered charity.*

Want  
to join a  
**GREAT**  
choir?

come and  
**sing with us**

hertfordshire chorus

