



Information for concert days.

Concert venue

Holy Trinity Church, Rolle Street, Exmouth, EX8 2AB.

Availability

If you know in advance that you are unable to sing in a concert please let the Secretary know as soon as possible; names of those intending to sing are needed in advance to ensure accurate seating. Even if you are not singing at the concert you are still welcome to attend rehearsals.

Staging

We are lucky to have purpose designed staging in Holy Trinity Church, which means that all singers should be able to see the conductor without problems. This is unpacked and assembled on the Friday morning prior to a concert by a band of volunteers. It is dismantled and stacked immediately after the concert so that the church can be used for services the next day. On the Monday morning after the concert the staging is returned to its storage place. Help is essential for all three of these processes. With plenty of helpers, ten to twelve, women as well as men, each task takes just over half an hour. The helpers usually have coffee together in the church coffee room after the Friday and Monday sessions, a good chance to meet choir members from other parts. Volunteers are asked to sign up to help over the last few Monday practices.

Final Rehearsal

This is held in Holy Trinity church on the afternoon of a concert day, usually from about 2.30pm to 5.00pm, and with the orchestra if applicable. Exact times for the rehearsal vary and are announced in the last Monday practices.

Attendance at the final rehearsal is essential. It is when final seating is decided and sits and stands are finalised. It is also the only chance to experience the acoustic of the church and to work with the orchestra or organ.

There will be labels for the different voice parts on the chairs but individual seating for the concert is arranged just before the rehearsal. It is helpful to arrive 15 minutes before the stated start of the rehearsal in order to negotiate seating. However, it is important not to disturb the orchestra who are often already rehearsing.

Bottles of water

Bottles of water are welcome at the rehearsal but for the performance please only use them discreetly in, for example, a coughing emergency. Refreshments are available in the interval.

Mobile phones

If it is essential, you may keep mobile phones on during the rehearsal, but please put them to silent mode. Please do not take mobile phones or pagers into the concert.

Toilets

There are toilets upstairs at the back of the church. A lift is available.

Parking

Parking in the church grounds is limited so it would help if you can car share or park in the surrounding streets. Please leave the church parking for people with mobility problems or double basses.

If you do need to park in the church grounds, the way in is at the top end of Bicton Place at the junction with Beacon Place and the way out is into Rolle Street. It is a one-way system.

If the ground is firm enough, the church allows car parking on the grass. In our climate, it is safer to assume this will not happen often.

Front of house

Volunteers staff the front of house roles, i.e. selling tickets and programmes, hosting the raffle and acting as ushers. Parking attendants are also required if we are allowed to park on the grass. These volunteers are friends from Holy Trinity and partners or friends of singing members. The Secretary would be pleased to hear if know of anyone who would be willing to fulfil any of these roles.

Between rehearsal and concert

Anyone who does not have time to go home between the rehearsal and the performance can usually find somewhere in the church to eat a sandwich and have a drink (which they need to bring with them). There is some space for communal changing.

Concert dress

The concert dress code is as follows:

Ladies: all black, with a touch of red. Trousers or long skirts. Sleeves below elbows. The touch of red will be a corsage of three roses, which will be supplied.

Men: black dinner jackets and trousers (or darkest possible suit), white shirt and black bow tie. The touch of red will be a breast pocket handkerchief, which will be supplied.

Black shoes for all.

Security

Please note that all your personal belongings are your sole responsibility. We suggest that you bring the absolute minimum with you. If ladies have a handbag with them please take only a very small clutch bag onto the stage.

Folders

Because we are often using different editions of the scores, music should be held in a black folder. If you do not have a folder, please ask the Secretary, who has a small emergency supply. Preferably, you could obtain one yourself. It must be black and the size is 21 by 31 centimetres.

Assembling for the concert

Pre-concert, the choir will:

- assemble in the green rooms by 19.10. Sop/Tenor in the north (organ) vestry; Alto/Bass in the south (choir) vestry.
- enter in formal procession, to be in place on stage by 19.28.
- remain standing until instructed to sit.
- remain seated until LB and soloists enter, standing on cue from front.

At the Interval, the choir will:

- remain standing (or be invited to stand by LB, if appropriate)
- leave in formal procession to each green room after Soloists/LB leave.

At the end of the Interval, the choir will re-assemble as above.

At the end of the concert, the choir will:

- remain standing (or be invited to stand by LB).
- leave in formal procession after Soloists/LB leave for the last time, on cue from front row.

Interval

Refreshments are usually available upstairs during the interval, courtesy of the church volunteers. During the interval it is fine to go and join your friends in the body of the church, or upstairs, but please note that we process off the stage to the vestries at the end of the first half, and back on again after the interval so please get back to your vestry in plenty of time.

Returning music scores

At the end of the concert please leave your music in the appropriate boxes which are placed in the vestries so that the librarian can collect it.

If you become aware in advance that you will not be singing in the concert please return your scores to the Librarian, via another member if necessary. The library imposes a fine if we do not return the scores on the designated date.

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