



2025/26 Season



A (rather late!) welcome to our 2025/26 Season, whether you are a long time member, you've just joined or are thinking of joining.

As we are quite a large choir we've produced this e-booklet to make sure that everyone knows the "basics" of being a member of Perth Choral Society so as to fully enjoy the experience. It covers everything from practice times to membership fees and what to wear at concerts. You may well have a question about something we've not covered so please ask.

Here's to a great year!

Weekly Rehearsals

For this season we will continue to meet on Tuesdays from 7.30pm - 9.30pm in St Matthews Church, Tay Street, Perth PH1 5LQ. It's always a good idea to arrive early, have a catch up with friends and get organised ready to start promptly. We usually begin with a vocal warm-up with Anne Holland, our accompanist. It's always fun!

Term 1: 2nd September to 9th December 2025

2 September (open practice)	9 September	16 September (AGM at 6.45)	23 September Tenors and Basses
30 September	7 October	14 October	21 October
28 October	4 November	11 November	18 November
25 November	30 November (Sunday) 2pm. Reh with NYCOS and Craigclowan choirs	2 December	9 December (Carols and Social)

Christmas Concert 2025 Chichester Psalms & Carmina Burana

Perth Concert Hall

Sunday 7 December

Final Rehearsal at 2.00pm (Please arrive by 1.30pm at latest)

Performance at 7.30pm (Please arrive by 7.00pm at latest)

Term 2: 6th January to 22nd March 2026

6 January (open practice)	13 January	20 January	27 January
3 February	10 February	17 February	24 February
3 March	10 March	17 March	

Spring Concert 2026 Mozart's Solemn Vespers and Requiem

St Johns Kirk

Sunday 22 March 2026

Final Rehearsal at 2.00pm (Please arrive by 1.30pm at latest)

Performance at 7.30pm (Please arrive by 7.00pm at latest)

What to expect:

Your membership allows you to attend our weekly rehearsals and to sing at our concerts. You will be given all of the sheet music relevant to each term's concert (some members prefer to bring their own) and a folder for use in the concert itself. The music should be returned immediately after the concert and the folder retained. If you leave the choir we would ask you to return the folder.

Each rehearsal begins with a vocal warm-up and then Peter Rutterford, our Musical Director, will take us through selected pieces. There is usually a break which is a lovely friendly time and an opportunity for notices and the weekly raffle! You may wish to bring water as it is thirsty work or pop into the neighbouring pub afterwards with some of the choir.



What is expected from you:

Choir rehearsals are a vital part of our goal of providing excellent concerts. We understand that it may be necessary for members to miss the occasional rehearsal, but if this is necessary, please let your section rep know. This also ensures that nobody misses out on any news that may be shared in a rehearsal.

We would expect members to attend at least 80% of rehearsals for each concert, including the final 2 Tuesday rehearsals and the 'dress' rehearsal on the day of our concerts - if you can't do this, then you should speak to our Musical Director who will decide whether it is possible for you to sing in the concert.

It is recommended that each member takes time to listen to the work as a whole on CD or streaming so as to be familiar with pieces prior to rehearsals. This prevents our evenings being focused on "note bashing" and allows us to work on performance. Individuals are also encouraged to practise rehearsed pieces using apps such as YouTube, ChoraLine or CyberBass at home.



Dress code for performances

For our main concerts the ladies usually dress in black (long skirt or trousers and long sleeved tops) with a turquoise scarf which is available from Barbara McAndie. The men wear black dinner suits with white shirts and black bow ties. Shoes are black and any jewellery should be discreet. If you have any queries concerning the dress code, please speak to Barbara.

Membership fees for 2025/6

Fees for the 2025/26 season are £95 - they can be paid annually at the start of the season in September, or in two payments in September and January. There is a concessionary fee of £15 available for those on benefits - please speak to Linda Milne, our treasurer, if you have any queries about this.

BACS payments should be made to "Perth Choral Society" Sort code 80-22-60, Account No 24223267. Please ensure your full name is included with the BACS payment. You can also pay by cheque to "Perth Choral Society" and give this to Linda.

Gift Aid

If you are a UK taxpayer you can gift aid your fees which adds a further £22.50 courtesy of HMRC (this helps us to keep membership fees lower). There is no additional cost to you but you do need to fill in a gift aid form (available from Linda). If you no longer pay UK tax it is important that you inform us so that we do not falsely claim gift aid on your behalf.

Fundraising

Perth Choral Society is a charity which aims to promote choral music in Perthshire. It is an expensive business, however, as we endeavour to perform to the best of our abilities in great venues with a full compliment of musicians and soloists. Membership fees only cover some rehearsal costs and so we rely on healthy concert incomes and fundraising to balance the books.

Selling concert tickets - Every member can help by chatting about our upcoming concerts, sharing the PCS Facebook and Instagram posts on our own social media as well as personally inviting friends and family to come along. There is no booking fee when tickets are purchased at rehearsals so they can bag a bargain!

Concert programme - For each concert, we sell a programme which is supported by local companies' advertising. If you know anyone who could be asked to advertise, please approach them and (if they are willing!) pass the details to Claire.

Friends of the choir - Please encourage your friends and family to consider becoming a 'friend' of the choir. Our Friends receive a priority seat for each of our two concerts and refreshments at concerts performed in Perth Concert Hall. We ask for a minimum donation of £60 per year. Anyone interested should contact our Membership Secretary, Fiona Connah.

Requests for grants - each year we apply to a number of trusts and grant giving bodies which is a lot of hard work as competition for awards increases. The Gannochy Trust and the Gordon Fraser Charitable Trust have been major donors to the choir and we will continue to apply for funding where appropriate.

200 Club - For just £5 per month you will have the opportunity to win one of 3 generous cash prizes each month. The top prize is currently £60 and you have a 1/16 chance of scooping it! The club is run by Florence Procter - for more details or an application form for the remaining "numbers", please contact perthchoralsocietysecretary@gmail.com

Weekly Rehearsal Raffles. In the break at each rehearsal, we have a raffle - please bring cash. Prizes are donated by members of the choir, and are much appreciated by our winners!

From time to time there are special fundraising events and we always welcome new ideas!

Community & Communication

Community events. In addition to our concerts, we are often asked to sing at one-off community events, such as the recent anniversary of VE day and the late Queen's Jubilee. We also support the Black Watch museum in Perth by singing carols at their Christmas Lunch. As Perth's premier choir, we welcome these opportunities to perform. These will be announced at practices and volunteers are encouraged.

E-mail, Website and Social Media. The primary way we communicate with members is by email, so please make sure your section rep has your latest details - and check your spam folder when you first join!

Please take a look at our website perthchoralsociety.org to find out more about the choir and forthcoming events.

We also have pages on Facebook and Instagram - we encourage you to like and share (on your own page and local groups) to spread our name and publicise our concerts. Follow the links on the website home page or visit these links for [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#).

We have a member's only WhatsApp group - "Choral Crooners". If you would like to join, and be able to message your latest photo or news, please ask Charlie Rigg or Claire Sawyer.

Data Protection. The Choir's Data protection policy is in line with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). If you have any questions about this, please speak to your section representative.

Photos/Videos. We will take photos or short video clips from time to time during rehearsals and concerts, either by a choir member or by a professional photographer. These will be used for publicity and marketing, including website, social media and press articles. If anyone has concerns, please speak to your section representative.







We are a Charity




The Choir is registered as a Scottish Charity (number SC011142). This allows us to take advantage of Gift Aid, and helps in applying for grants. If you would like to see the Charity Constitution or the Rules of the Society, contact our Secretary, Mark Johnson.

The day to day management of the choir is run by a volunteer committee, who are also the charity trustees, and which are elected for 3 years by Choir members at the Annual General meeting. Please think whether this might be something you could do as we do need people willing to join the committee. Please contact Mark Johnson if you have any questions (perthchoralsocietysecretary@gmail.com)





Our AGM is held in September each year. This includes the election of new committee members as well as reports on different aspects of the choral's work.

Current members of the committee are listed below.

		
Claire Sawyer President	Sabrina Willekens Vice President	Mark Johnson Secretary perthchoralsocietysecretary@gmail.com
		
Linda Milne Treasurer	James Crawford Publicity and Programmes	David Griffiths Concert Manager

		
Fiona Connah Membership Secretary	Julie Illingworth Librarian Contact for Choral Folders	Kenneth Maciver

Our Section representatives serve on the committee and are the first point of contact for you if you have any suggestions, queries or concerns. Please contact your rep if you cannot attend a rehearsal.

			
Gill McKenzie Soprano	Barbara McAndie Alto	Carlo Fiorentini Tenor	Ian Ross Bass

Policies

These documents are held by the secretary - please contact perthchoralsocietysecretary@gmail.com if you wish to be sent a copy.

Policy on Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults	Data Protection and Data Retention Policies
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