

Laetare Singers

Our conductors

We invite conductors from all around the UK, and we have in recent years enjoyed being conducted by David Allinson, Hilary Campbell, Sarah Latto, Tom Williams and Ben England.

This could be for you if you:

- ❖ Have a reasonable level of sight-reading
- ❖ Enjoy a wide range of choral repertoire
- ❖ Prefer to sing and keep note-bashing to a minimum
- ❖ Are of a sociable disposition

To find out more, contact: Andrea Argent on website



Who are we ?

“Laetare” means “rejoice” and Laetare Singers is the name we chose for this group of singers to reflect how much we rejoice in singing together. For over forty years we have been attracting like-minded people from the South-West and further afield to explore interesting music from all periods, and to develop our understanding and abilities. We come from many walks of life and get together two or three times a year to sing and socialise.

When do we meet ?

We meet twice a year for a weekend and once every two years for a more intensive “Choral Day”. We employ a different musical director each time, which gives us a constantly changing set of challenges as we discover new music, and new ways of singing in ensemble, exploring each MD’s passions.

Winter



In early January we meet up for a residential weekend from Friday evening to Sunday afternoon. Our venue is Sarum College, set in Cathedral Close in Salisbury. The College is reserved just for us, and up to 60 of us gather to sing 4- to 8-part (or more) works. We may

invite an assistant conductor to enable us to divide into smaller groups and perhaps widen the repertoire.

Summer

Our summer residential event from 2024 will mirror the winter event, running from Friday to Sunday at our new venue, the Royal Agricultural University. A mix of buildings old and new are surrounded by peaceful sports fields and farmland, across the road from wooded parkland on the outskirts of Cirencester.



At both Winter and Summer venues all meals are included, and all dietary requirements are catered for. There is always time to explore the local area. We round off the weekends by giving an informal performance to a *very* select audience. There is plenty of time to chat, have a drink at the bar, do some informal singing, and prepare for our home-grown “cabaret” on Saturday evening, where anything goes.

Once every two years we assemble a larger number in Bristol for a day’s workshop, open to all, on a specific piece or small group of pieces. At recent choral days we have enjoyed being conducted by Bob Chilcott, Sally Dunkley, Robert Hollingworth and Nicholas Cleobury.



What do we sing ?

We cover all music periods when we meet, from mediaeval composers such as Machaut and Josquin to 21st century composers including Eric Whitacre and Morten Lauridsen, and sometimes more light-hearted arrangements of classic popular songs. We prefer to sing *a cappella* and there are sometimes opportunities to sing small solos.

Works sung in the past include Byrd’s Great Service; Monteverdi’s Beatus Vir; Vaughan Williams’ Mass in G minor; Herbert Howells’ Take Him, Earth, for Cherishing, and Don Macdonald’s Voices of the Ancients.

Choral Days