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## CHARITIES

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Each year, we partner with a charity, usually health-related. The aim is to give them additional publicity and the opportunity to raise money through taking collections at concerts, receiving profits from the sale of concert programmes, and by sharing in any concert profits. We gain increased publicity through the charity's mailing list and website.

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## MONDAY NOTES

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An information sheet, known as Monday Notes, is available fortnightly at rehearsals. It contains vital information for choir members, so do please take a copy and read it carefully.

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## MORE DETAILS

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More details about Barts Choir can be found on our website. The "members" page has lots of useful information, including details of rehearsals, learning resources, contact details for voice reps and others, and information about the running of the choir. There is also a "messages" section where we post updated information or urgent messages.



St Bartholomew's Hospital Choral Society  
Registered Charity 273180  
[www.bartschoir.com](http://www.bartschoir.com)

Photography by Sim Canetty-Clarke

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## WHO'S WHO

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**Ivor Setterfield** has conducted Barts Choir since 1996. He is the founder and Musical Director of the Trafalgar Sinfonia, and also directs the New London Singers. He has recorded a number of CDs with both groups. He has appeared in his own television series, *The Singing Estate*, on Channel Five and in BBC2's *Maestro*. He mentored the DJ Goldie as he composed a classical piece for the 2009 Proms.  
[www.ivorsetterfield.com](http://www.ivorsetterfield.com)



**Chris Lee** is our rehearsal pianist. He performs at concerts as organist, continuo player and solo pianist. He writes, arranges and plays jazz at venues across London and beyond and has released CDs of his own arrangements. [www.chrisslee.co.uk](http://www.chrisslee.co.uk)

**The choir's Board of Trustees** is elected at the Annual General Meeting by you, the members. The Chairman is nominated by Barts and The London Hospital Trust. The Trustees have executive authority to run the choir and are responsible for delivering our charitable aims. Decisions and finances are subject to formal scrutiny at the AGM each year. Accounts are audited and submitted to the Charity Commission. More information is available at [www.bartschoir.com](http://www.bartschoir.com).

**The work of the choir** is undertaken entirely by volunteers from the choir, and we are always looking for more help. A detailed list of what it takes to run the choir is available in the members' section of the website – do please take a look and offer what help you can.

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# BARTS CHOIR

## INFORMATION FOR SINGERS

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## OUR PURPOSE

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Barts Choir is a registered charity. Our purpose is two-fold: to promote choral singing, which we do by being open to anyone who wants to sing with us, and by putting on public concerts; and to support other charities (usually health-related) by partnering with a specific charity each year.

## REHEARSALS

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We rehearse every Monday evening, 6.45-8.45pm, with a brief break at 7.45 (Thursdays in bank holiday weeks), with two or three Saturday rehearsals (12-5pm) each term. Saturdays are optional, but well worth attending for some in-depth learning and the opportunity to socialise during the lunch break.

The rehearsals schedule is available on the website and at rehearsals.

You are expected to miss no more than three Monday rehearsals in any one term or you may be asked not to sing in the concert. Attendance at a Saturday makes up for a missed Monday. Occasionally, attendance records are used as a selection mechanism if we have to limit numbers at concerts.

## REHEARSAL ETIQUETTE

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Bring a pencil to rehearsal so you can mark musical directions on your score. Please don't talk during rehearsals – it is distracting for others, makes it hard work for the conductor, and means you may miss important directions. When the conductor is working with a different section of the choir, there may be instructions that apply to all, so please pay attention.

Most rehearsals take place in churches – please behave respectfully in the sanctuaries and do not consume food (water is fine).

Don't tap your feet in time with the music – it is distracting for other singers and it is the conductor's beat that matters, not yours.

## VOICE REPS, REGISTERING AND SIGNING-IN

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Each section of the choir has at least one voice rep, who is responsible for recording attendance, taking subscriptions, and answering your queries.

It is important that you register your participation at the beginning of each term by returning a signed "pink slip" to your voice rep. The slip enables us to register you as a singing member, keep a record of your payment, and add your contact details to our database (which we use to send you occasional emails). It also authorises us to claim Gift Aid on your subscription. It is vital that you return it to your rep, with your money, early each term.

You are asked to sign in each week with your rep, so we can keep track of attendance and numbers, which is especially important for planning seating for concerts.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

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Your subscriptions pay for rehearsals (venue, pianist, conductor) so please pay as early each term as possible. There is a £5 discount for those who pay within the first three weeks.

## LEARNING YOUR NOTES

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As well as attending rehearsals, we ask that you dedicate some of your own time to learning the notes. Rehearsal CDs, which play your line prominently, with the rest in the background, are a good way to learn if you don't read music or don't have a keyboard. They are available from Music Dynamics. Cyberbass is an online equivalent. Sometimes we organise sectional or extra rehearsals to help with more difficult pieces.

## CONCERTS

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We stage three main concerts each year in a variety of prestigious London venues including Royal Albert Hall, Royal Festival Hall and Cadogan Hall. These are funded through sales of tickets. We rely heavily on members of the choir to promote concerts to their friends and to sell tickets. Any profits are shared with our partner charity. Please take this responsibility seriously and do your best to sell 10 tickets for each concert.

Other activities include singing carols in Trafalgar Square to raise money for charity, and providing some of the music at an annual Remembrance Service for Barts and The London Hospital Trust in St Paul's Cathedral.

## CONCERT DRESS AND ETIQUETTE

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Concert dress for sopranos and altos is all-black (trousers or ankle length skirts, tops with below-elbow sleeves and modest cleavage). Tenors and basses usually wear dinner suits (black suit, white shirt, black bow tie, optional black cummerbund). The aim is to look uniform and professional, without actually having a uniform, so please ensure you comply with the dress code.

Seating for concerts is often logistically complicated so please make sure you know what the arrangements are and be flexible if requested. All logistical and other details are published in advance of the concert – please look out for them.

## BARTS CHAMBER CHOIR

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Chamber Choir (approximate 50 singers) is for Barts Choir members who are more confident and want to sing challenging music in more intimate venues such as St Martin in the Fields in Trafalgar Square. Membership is determined by a short singing test.