

Royal Tunbridge Wells
CHORAL
SOCIETY

Start of Season Newsletter: 2026/2027

I do hope that you all haven't melted during this amazing summer and that now, as the weather begins to cool a little, you're able to turn your thoughts once again to singing. A very warm welcome to our 2026/27 season and especially to our new members - we're very much looking forward to meeting you and making music together.

Term starts on **Monday, September 7th** at our usual venue of **St John's Church Hall, Amherst Road, Tunbridge Wells** and the rehearsals will start at their regular time of **7.30pm**. Our rehearsals run for two hours with a short break to catch our breath. We don't have refreshment facilities, I'm afraid, so do bring along a bottle of water to keep you going.

KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Our first concert will be at **3pm** on **Sunday, November 8th** at the Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells. We shall be performing Carmina Burana by Carl Orff, along with Borodin's Polovtsian Dances. We shall be joined in this concert by a choir from Kent College.

At Christmas, we'll be at St James, Tunbridge Wells on **Saturday, December 12th** for our usual festive programme of carols and seasonal pieces. We shall also be holding our traditional choir tea between the afternoon rehearsal and concert.

After the Christmas break, term will restart on **Monday, January 11th 2027**. We shall be rehearsing Haydn's Nelson Mass and Mozart's Coronation Mass for a concert at the Assembly Hall Theatre at 3pm on **Sunday, April 18th 2027**.

To round off the season our Summer Sing will be on **Saturday, June 26th 2026**. Once again, we hope to hold this at Holmewood House School Theatre. This year we're considering an animal themed programme, possibly built around Captain Noah and his Floating Zoo (Flanders/Horowitz).

MUSIC

Scores for all our concerts are available for hire from our Librarian at the beginning of each term.

First in line is Carmina Burana and Polovtsian Dances and these scores will be ready and waiting for your collection at rehearsals over the next few weeks. The cost to members will be **£5** for the pair and if you could bring the exact change that will speed the process and enable the queue to move along quickly. [If you only need one of the scores, that will be £2 or £3 respectively].

For those who prefer to use their own scores, we are using the Schott edition of Carmina and the Winthrop Rogers Edition, Boosey & Hawkes Ltd for the Borodin.

Whenever using a hire copy, please do remember to use a soft lead 2B pencil when noting any of Robyn's rehearsal directions. We have to ensure that all of these marks are erased before the scores are returned to the hiring library so if we can make this task a little easier for ourselves where possible it would be most appreciated.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subject to ratification at the AGM later in the term, it is proposed that the subscription for 2026/27 are not increased and remain at £155. We hope that you feel it represents extremely good value for money when considered against thirty five scheduled rehearsals and four concert opportunities.

Subscriptions are due at the beginning of the season and can either be paid in full now or in two instalments, with £80 due in September and £75 in January. The subscription for students, the under-25s, members with disabilities and their supporting carers remains at £25 as does the discounted category for members between 25 and 35 years of age at £50.

Notwithstanding the above, the Committee is keen to acknowledge that subscriptions of any kind should never be a barrier to singing. If you are having any problems then our Treasurer, Ailsa McMahon is happy to be available for a private chat on a confidential basis to see how we can help.

Our preferred method of payment is by on-line transfer with details below.

Bank details	Account name	RTWCS
	Sort Code	40-52-40
	Account no:	00017884

If you could use your name as the “reference” for the transaction and email Ailsa (treasurer@rtwcs.org.uk) to let her know that your sub is coming through that would be much appreciated.

As a charity we are able to claim tax back on any donations and part of the subscription under the Gift Aid scheme. If you are in a position to sign a Gift Aid form, please check that we have one in place from you - if not, they are available on request. [For information, the tuition element of this year's sub is calculated as £12].

SOCIAL EVENTS

We usually hold one or two social events during the course of the year and intend to do the same again this year - but we haven't got any dates or venues in mind so watch this space! And if you have any good ideas in this vein, please do mention it to any Committee member as suggestions are always very much welcomed.

WEBSITE

All of this information and more can be found on our website, especially with regard to future concert dates, rehearsal schedules, concert photographs, rehearsal notes and other useful snippets of information. It really is worth a bookmark on your browser.

There's also a choir WhatsApp group which is good for catching up on late changes to rehearsals and such like. It's easy to sign up - just email your request to Jane Walters (membership@rtwcs.org.uk) who acts as coordinator.

From time to time we may organise photography sessions for publicity and promotional purposes. The best of these appear on our web site but may also be found in a wider context, for instance as concert publicity within the Assembly Hall's digital marketing site. ***If you would prefer not to be photographed,*** then please let me or any other committee member know. It's not a problem, we just need to know your preferences so we can accommodate them accordingly.

AND FINALLY

From time to time, as is the case with all voluntary organisations, there'll be a call for volunteers at rehearsal. First call this year is for some help in manning our "stall" at the Tunbridge Wells Freshers Fair to be held in the Amelia (next to TW central Library) on October 10th between 10 and 4. If you can help out for an hour or two, that would be lovely. More details at rehearsal!

Thanks for reading through to this bottom of the page and, as ever, if there's anything I've forgotten to mention or which needs clarification please don't hesitate to ask. We look forward to singing with you