



26/27



THE  
HUDDERSFIELD  
CHORAL

EXPERIENCE THE  
MAGIC OF THE  
NORTH'S PREMIER  
INDEPENDENT CHOIR

# BE INSPIRED AND UPLIFTED WITH HCS

On behalf of the entire Huddersfield Choral Society family, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to our 2026/2027 season. This is my tenth year as Director and the Society's 191st season and I can assure you that it will be one to remember.

Across the year we are thrilled to be presenting some of the greatest music ever written, performed by a dazzling array of world-class musicians.

Our season opens with Mendelssohn's great oratorio *Elijah*. Featuring some of the most exciting young soloists in the UK and Europe, this promises to be an electrifying performance of one of the most important pieces of choral music ever written. Our performances of *Messiah* will this season be conducted by Charlotte Corderoy, who is making her HCS debut. Charlotte is one of the rising stars of the operatic world and I have no doubt she will bring out the remarkable drama of this timeless work. Also, for the first time in our history, we are delighted to present performances of *Messiah* in both Huddersfield and Hull, offering audiences across Yorkshire the chance to witness this world-famous event.

In spring 2027, internationally renowned choral expert Simon Halsey conducts the Choral Society in a concert of musical beauty and serenity: Duruffé's remarkable and transcendent *Requiem* paired with Imogen Holst's reflective and evocative *Three Psalms*. Simon Halsey has been, and continues to be, one of the most significant choral musicians of our time, and we are very fortunate to welcome him to work with us in concert for the first time.

The year closes with a very special performance of *Friday Night is Music Night* with our beloved Principal Guest Conductor, Ellie Slorach.

As ever, we are very proud to share the stage with some truly world-class orchestral partners. This season we perform alongside the Royal Northern Sinfonia, Black Dyke Band, the Orchestra of Opera North, Manchester Camerata and the BBC Concert Orchestra.

The Huddersfield Choral Society remains one of the UK's great choral treasures. We are immensely proud to continue our tradition of bringing music of this quality to our loyal audiences and subscribers.

Whether you are coming to see the Choral for the first time or have been coming for years, we look forward to welcoming you to our performances and to enriching your lives through the remarkable sounds of the Huddersfield Choral Society.

*Greg*

**Gregory Batsleer**  
Director,  
Huddersfield Choral Society



# CONCERT DATES FOR YOUR CHORAL DIARY

Please note that all concerts will start at 7 p.m.

IN THE FINE ACOUSTIC OF HUDDERSFIELD TOWN HALL



SATURDAY,  
31<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER 2026  
7:00 PM

MENDELSSOHN: *ELIJAH*  
HCS, ROYAL NORTHERN SINFONIA

Conductor: GREGORY BATSLER  
Soprano: AVA DODD  
Mezzo: JESS DANDY  
Tenor: THOMAS WALKER  
Baritone: MICHAEL MOFIDIAN



SATURDAY,  
5<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2026  
7:00 PM

CHRISTMAS CONCERT  
HCS, HCS VOICES, BLACK DYKE BAND

Conductors  
HCS: GREGORY BATSLER  
HCS Youth Choirs: COLLEEN BROWN  
Black Dyke Band: NICHOLAS CHILDS



SATURDAY,  
19<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2026  
7:00 PM

G. F. HANDEL: *MESSIAH*  
HCS, ORCHESTRA OF OPERA NORTH

Conductor: CHARLOTTE CORDEROY  
Soprano: ANNA DEVIN  
Mezzo: KITTY WHATELEY  
Tenor: BEN HULETT  
Bass: TBC

BSL Interpreter: PAUL WHITTAKER



SATURDAY,  
10<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2027  
7:00 PM

DURUFFÉ: *REQUIEM*  
IMOGEN HOLST: *THREE PSALMS*  
ANOTHER WORK: TBC  
HCS, MANCHESTER CAMERATA

Conductor: SIMON HALSEY  
Soloists: TBC

Please note that this will be our only 2026 performance of *Messiah* in Huddersfield Town Hall.



SATURDAY,  
26<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2027  
7:00 PM

SUMMER CONCERT:  
GUESTS OF BBC CONCERT ORCHESTRA IN  
*FRIDAY NIGHT IS MUSIC NIGHT*  
HCS, BBC CONCERT ORCHESTRA

Conductor: ELLIE SLORACH

PROGRAMME TO BE ANNOUNCED

# ELIJAH – MENDELSSOHN

JOIN US ON SATURDAY, 31<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER  
7:00 P.M. AT HUDDERSFIELD TOWN HALL

## HCS, ROYAL NORTHERN SINFONIA

Conductor: GREGORY BATSLEER  
Soprano: AVA DODD  
Mezzo: JESS DANDY  
Tenor: THOMAS WALKER  
Baritone: MICHAEL MOFIDIAN

HCS has a motto – ‘to uphold and renew a proud tradition ...’ and there are few works that better speak to that tradition than Mendelssohn’s great oratorio *Elijah*, a work that each generation of singers presents anew.

It was written in 1846 as a commission for the triennial Birmingham Music Festival, and the date is significant. Mendelssohn died in the following year, at only 38 years old, but in that short life had made a huge contribution to the English Choral Tradition, fusing the oratorio form’s Handelian beginnings with the classicism of Mozart and Beethoven to create the bridge to all the later major choral works that we now think of as the choral canon.

His previous major choral work, *St Paul*, comes from the same year as the foundation of Huddersfield Choral Society: 1836. It takes little imagination to see in this period – roughly the first half of the 19th century – the explosive growth and popularity of large-scale choral performance in England, fed by the talent pool of church and chapel choirs, the availability for the first time of affordable printed vocal scores of the major works, and the formation of the big Societies of which Huddersfield was but one. The Societies

themselves created a demand for repertoire, and Mendelssohn – who made many visits to England in his short professional life – was both responding to and feeding this demand. What might he have gone on to had he lived longer!

Like its predecessors, *Elijah* tells a biblical story. It is dramatic in conception and opera-like in its development. The scenes in which Elijah defeats the prophets of Baal, or the breaking of the drought, are pure theatre; yet theatre crafted within a classical whole, episodic but certainly not disjointed. Listening to Mendelssohn’s purity and clarity of composition we are reminded that as well as turbo-charging the development of choral music in England, he was a leading advocate for the music of Bach, one might almost say of its rehabilitation.

There is no evidence that Huddersfield singers took part in that first performance in Birmingham – the Society was still finding its feet. The first Huddersfield performance was in 1859, and it immediately became a mainstay of the repertoire, appearing in the programme with sometimes annual regularity. In the 20th century, it was returned to in every decade, and recorded twice (both times in the 1940s and 50s – so maybe we are overdue a renewal).



# CHRISTMAS CONCERT

JOIN US ON SATURDAY, 5<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER  
7:00 P.M. AT HUDDERSFIELD TOWN HALL

HCS, HCS YOUTH CHOIRS, BLACK DYKE BAND

Conductors: HCS – GREGORY BATSLEER  
HCS YOUTH CHOIRS – COLLEEN BROWN  
BLACK DYKE BAND – NICHOLAS CHILDS



What can be a better start to the Christmas season than rousing singing and a brass band? This year HCS welcomes back on stage award-winning Black Dyke Band and our own HCS Youth Choirs for a concert full of festive treats.

For those who've never experienced the 'Huddersfield Sound', this is the perfect introduction to HCS. There'll be powerful singing, exquisite hushed moments, foot-tapping band numbers – and of course the opportunity to raise the town hall roof yourselves.

With a heritage stretching back to 1855, the Black Dyke Band's pedigree is almost as long as that of HCS. Over 350 recordings and numerous national and European competition titles have made the name Black Dyke synonymous with musical excellence.

'Virtuosity of this order takes the breath away.'



O Holy Night was outstanding...  
Christmas has begun.

Audience Member



You can't beat a bit of Yorkshire Brass and Voices.  
What a fabulous evening!

Audience Member



If you've never experienced the goosepimplicity of joining HCS in singing carols in the town hall, you've missed a Christmas treat!

HCS Member 2024



Fabulous to see the town hall packed to the rafters for the Christmas Concert.

Audience Member



# G.F. HANDEL MESSIAH

JOIN US ON SATURDAY, 19<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER  
7:00 P.M. AT HUDDERSFIELD TOWN HALL

## HCS & ORCHESTRA OF OPERA NORTH

Conductor: CHARLOTTE CORDEROY  
Soprano: ANNA DEVIN  
Mezzo: KITTY WHATELEY  
Tenor: BEN HULETT  
Bass: TBC  
BSL Interpreter: PAUL WHITTAKER



Christmas in Huddersfield without *Messiah* is, of course, unthinkable. The work with which HCS is always associated has been presented here every year since 1864, before there was a Town Hall, come hell, high water, and two world wars, only broken when Covid struck and made choirs temporarily illegal.

The extraordinary thing is that, with all these performances, it is never the same twice. This is Handel's genius, to have created timeless music that can be grand and imposing, can dance, can touch the heart or lift the spirit. To hear it live in Huddersfield Town Hall is not just an aural experience but a physical one. Little wonder that it remains an audience favourite. If you want a seat you will need to book early (but see p.19).

This year we welcome a young conductor with a stellar future to put her own stamp on the work: Charlotte Corderoy makes her Huddersfield debut conducting the Orchestra of Opera North. Not yet 30, she is building an international reputation and was Critics' Circle Conductor of the Year in 2025. You won't want to miss it.



Hearing the Huddersfield Choral Society sing was on our bucket list.

Audience Member



We've been wanting to come for years and this was our first opportunity. So uplifting! What a boost to the spirits!

Audience Member



In the past we queued all night for *Messiah* tickets. Now as season ticket holders we can enjoy HCS, knowing we can regularly support this amazing choir.

HCS Subscriber

# DURUFLÉ: REQUIEM

# IMOGEN HOLST: THREE PSALMS

WITH ANOTHER WORK TBC

JOIN US ON SATURDAY, 10<sup>TH</sup> APRIL  
7:00 P.M. AT HUDDERSFIELD TOWN HALL

HCS, MANCHESTER CAMERATA

Conductor: SIMON HALSEY

Soloists: FROM RNCM



'In general, my desire has been to get right to the heart of the style of Gregorian melody, and I have striven to reconcile Gregorian rhythm as far as possible with the restrictions of the modern bar-line.' So said Maurice Duruflé of his *Requiem*, composed over the final years of the Second World War and finally published in 1948.

And that foundation runs through the work, bringing a wonderful sense of connection over the centuries, because this is a work that defies labelling, at once mediaeval and modern. The bloodline of the *Requiem* can be traced immediately back to Gabriel Fauré and the jewel that is his *Requiem* – the format and mood are similar, softening the drama of the *Dies Irae* in favour of the consolatory *Pie Jesu* and *In Paradisum*. That may be no surprise for a French composer writing at a time of national upheaval when the Fauré work was (as it remains) hugely popular; but there is also a direct line of influence: Duruflé was, as Fauré had been before him, assistant organist to Louis Vierne at Notre Dame. This will be only the third time that HCS has performed this atmospheric and deeply reflective work; perhaps it ought to be a more frequent part of our repertoire.

It's now two years since we first performed music by Imogen Holst in an HCS season, pairing her setting of Psalm 80 'Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel' with the Fauré *Requiem*, to audience delight. So it's appropriate that we now give the full work from which that is taken – *Three Psalms* – to accompany the Duruflé.

Most widely known in her lifetime as the administrator and then joint artistic director of the Aldeburgh Festival, Holst – daughter of Gustav – was an accomplished composer in her own right, whose music is only now coming to be recognised on its own merits. She graduated from the Royal College studying conducting and composition, winning the Cobbett Prize for composition, and in later years orchestrated and arranged many works for Benjamin Britten. This devotion to the music of others – most obviously her own father and Britten – and her skill and enthusiasm as a teacher have eclipsed her own work, and we are very glad to help bring it before a wider audience.

We are delighted to be able to welcome Simon Halsey as conductor in his Huddersfield debut, which we can all agree has been too long in coming. Simon's eminence as a choral director is evident both in his long association with the City of Birmingham Symphony Chorus and then the Berlin Philharmonic Chorus, in both cases working alongside Sir Simon Rattle.



# GUESTS OF BBC CONCERT ORCHESTRA IN *FRIDAY NIGHT IS MUSIC NIGHT*

JOIN US ON SATURDAY, 27<sup>TH</sup> JUNE  
7:00 P.M. AT HUDDERSFIELD TOWN HALL

HCS, BBC CONCERT ORCHESTRA

Conductor: ELLIE SLORACH

*Friday Night Is Music Night* is the world's longest-running live orchestral music radio programme, having been first broadcast in 1953. Its lynchpin is the BBC Concert Orchestra, and the programmes feature many types of music, including classical, light, film, theatre, songs from the musicals, and opera and operetta. One of its biggest appeals is its unpredictable playlist, which is left unrevealed until broadcast. For that reason, we can't tell you what the programme will be. You'll just have to come along and find out!



OUR CONDUCTORS



As Artistic and Choral Director of HCS for 10 years, Gregory Batsleer has overseen a significant evolution in its artistic ambitions and output. His work as a conductor, choral director, artistic curator and executive leader across some of the UK's most high-profile cultural organisations has earned him a reputation as one of the most pioneering figures in classical music of his generation.

He has prepared choirs for internationally acclaimed conductors, including Maxim Emelyancev, Robin Ticciati, Klaus Makela, Andrew Manze, Ricardo Minasi, Francois Xavier-Rot, Martyn Brabbins and Sir Mark Elder, and has worked with several of the UK's leading orchestras and choral organisations.



Born in 1997, Charlotte graduated from Oxford University with First Class Honours in Music. She went on to study conducting at the Royal Academy of Music, where she is currently Musical Director of their inaugural Junior Musical Theatre Department. She was assistant conductor of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra from 2023–25.

The 2025/26 season saw Charlotte debut with the Philharmonia Orchestra, London Symphony Orchestra, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic and Orchestre Philharmonique du Luxembourg.

Previous highlights include performances with English National Opera, State Opera South Australia and London Philharmonic Orchestra. She also returned as Cover Conductor to Glyndebourne Festival Opera for a second season.



Simon Halsey is the trusted advisor on choral singing to the world's greatest conductors, orchestras and choruses; as an ambassador for choral singing to amateurs of every age, ability and background he has led ground-breaking massed choral events, notably for New York's Lincoln Center. He was appointed Artistic Advisor and Choral Director at Oslo Philharmonic in January 2025, with his first project being a performance of Duruflé's *Requiem*.

Halsey was made Commander of the British Empire in 2015, was awarded The Queen's Medal for Music in 2014, and received the Officer's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany in 2011 in recognition of his outstanding contribution to choral music in Germany.



Ellie Slorach – Principal Guest Conductor of HCS, Engagement Conductor of the Royal Scottish National Orchestra and Associate Conductor of Royal Northern Sinfonia – studied Conducting at the Royal Northern College of Music and was awarded Associate Membership (ARNCM) in 2023. She previously studied Music at the University of Manchester.

Recent conducting highlights include the outstanding CBeebies Prom, *A Magical Bedtime Story* at the Royal Albert Hall in August 2025, concerts with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, the National Youth Choir, the BBC Concert Orchestra and the BBC Singers. In July 2026, Ellie will conduct BBC Prom concerts on consecutive nights, in Middlesbrough and Gateshead.

OUR ORCHESTRAS

The Royal Northern Sinfonia is a regular and welcome collaborator with HCS. It is the UK's only full-time chamber orchestra, with 37 incredible musicians coming together to play electrifying music, old and new: from symphonies to string quartets, film soundtracks to choral masses, the orchestra's members have the most varied of musical jobs. Representing all the talent, determination and creativity of the North East on a worldwide stage, from its home at The Glasshouse International Centre for Music, Royal Northern Sinfonia shares the joy and wonder of orchestral music with thousands of people across the North of England, and beyond, every year.



Black Dyke Band, founded in 1855 at the mills of the same name in Queensbury, comprised just 18 musicians when it first entered the field of rivalry against the principal bands of the country in 1856 – at a contest in Hull where it came second. The following year at Halifax, the band won first prize; in 1858 it was first at Dewsbury. At York in 1859, the band won £30 in prize money (the highest ever amount offered) and in July 1860 won first prize at a great contest between 169 bands at the Crystal Palace. The die was cast and the band has since won numerous national and European competition titles, making the name Black Dyke synonymous with musical excellence.



The Orchestra of Opera North holds a unique place amongst British orchestras as the only ensemble in the country to have a year-round dual role in the opera house and concert hall. Important relationships with Leeds International Concert Season see the orchestra performing regular concerts of major symphonic repertoire, gala and outdoor concerts, films with live music and collaborating with the region's choral societies. It also programmes the Kirklees Concert Season, and plays regularly at the Buxton International Festival, Ryedale Festival and Ripon International Festival.



The orchestra has received international recognition for its recordings, most recently its recording of Elgar's *The Dream of Gerontius* with Huddersfield Choral Society and Martyn Brabbins for Hyperion, which has won widespread acclaim.

Manchester Camerata is the UK's most relentlessly pioneering orchestra, known for constantly innovating – redefining what an orchestra can be. It performs across diverse settings, from collaborating with global artists such as the Pet Shop Boys to touring major international concert halls.



Central to Camerata's mission is a belief in the transformative power of music. This has positioned it as a leader in music, health and wellbeing, including hosting the UK's first Centre of Excellence for Music and Dementia. Its award-winning Music in Mind programme, developed with The University of Manchester, is grounded in over 12 years of research and supports thousands of people. Alongside this, Camerata champions the future of music through talent development programmes and deep community engagement from its home at The Monastery in Manchester.

The BBC Concert Orchestra's mission is to bring inspiring musical experiences to everyone, everywhere, with the ensemble's versatility as the key. For BBC Radio 3, the orchestra explores a wide selection of classical and contemporary music and is broadcast weekly on *Friday Night Is Music Night*. It has performed on many soundtracks, including *Blue Planet*, *Serengeti* and *Wild Isles* for BBC One.



The orchestra appears annually at the BBC Proms and regularly at London's Southbank Centre, Alexandra Palace Theatre and Nottingham Royal Concert Hall. It has a formal partnership with the University of Nottingham, Nottingham Trent University and Nottingham Royal Concert Hall, which provides world-class performance, composition and production experiences to students and local communities.

# YOUTH CHOIRS



Formed in 1986 to give young people in Kirklees and the surrounding area the opportunity to experience the joy of singing, the HC Youth Choirs have a rich heritage of performances in venues large and small.

In 2025/26 we enjoyed a fabulous season of wonderful concerts, competition success, and birthday celebrations to mark 40 years since our formation.

Last September brought our usual reshuffle as members left for higher education and new interests. As ever, older members of Young Voices stepped up as the newest singers in Vocalise/ Youth Choir, and we welcomed a new cohort of enthusiastic recruits. While young people face increasing commitments and we lost several members this year, we are privileged to work with a loyal, hard-working and talented group who continue to flourish and meet every challenge. We were also delighted to welcome our new Music Director, Colleen Brown, who took up the baton from Alison North MBE following Alison's retirement in summer 2025 after nine years of outstanding leadership.

Our annual Christmas concert at Holy Trinity Church was followed by a warm and well-attended 'Come & Sing Christmas' open rehearsal – a lovely way to close the first term. In February, our focus turned to the Mrs Sunderland Festival. The joint choirs won both The Young People's Choir Year 8 & under and The Young People's Choir Year 11 & under classes, and placed second in the Young People's Choir, 21 years & under class. The adjudicator's feedback was glowing: 'Your ensemble is excellent – consonants, dynamics, phrasing are all coordinated beautifully.' 'You have such poise, warmth of tone and musical phrasing,' and 'The energy in your singing was palpable.'

Two weeks later, our spring concert, *United in Sound*, gave us a chance to celebrate our successes and showcase our trophies. With contributions from choir soloists – many fresh from the festival – we enjoyed a wonderful afternoon of music-making.

This summer term has been devoted to preparing *Music for the Seasons* at Huddersfield Town Hall – an uplifting finale to our fortieth season.

Looking ahead, preparations are already underway for next season. We are delighted to have been invited to perform in a *Brass and Voices* concert at Holmfirth Civic Hall by the Foresters Friendly Society, and at the Choral Society's annual Christmas concert. Together with our own three concerts, there is plenty to look forward to.

## PROVISIONAL DATES FOR THE FORTHCOMING SEASON ARE:

Brass and Voices – Saturday 7th November 2026, Holmfirth Civic Hall

Huddersfield Choral Christmas Concert – Saturday 5th December 2026, Huddersfield Town Hall

Christmas Concert – Sunday 13th December 2026, Lindley Methodist Church

Young Peoples Choir Day – Friday 26th February 2027, Mrs Sunderland Performing Arts Festival

Spring Concert – Sunday 14th March 2027, venue TBA

Summer Concert – Sunday 4th July 2027, venue TBA

# HCS VOICES



HCS Voices, the community choir of Huddersfield Choral Society, was formed as a route into singing with the main choir. It is open to any adult, regardless of singing ability or experience, or even whether they can afford to pay for choir membership. It has close links with the other choirs in the HCS family, and counts ex-members of the Youth Choirs and members of the main choir amongst its many members.

As the 2025/26 season comes to a close, we look back on a successful first year under our new Music Director, Mitchell Wright. The choir was very well received at our three performances at Moldgreen URC. We also sang at Tesco to raise money for the charity Ruddy's Retreat, and got absolutely soaked singing at Holmfirth Festival of Folk.

Our repertoire remains broad. This year's concerts included songs from the Americas, Africa and Europe, with words and music ranging from the thirteenth century to the 2020s, and styles from folk and tribal music through gospel, jazz, swing and show tunes to classical pieces.

The upcoming season will be our second under Mitchell Wright and, having been awarded £5,000 by the One Community Foundation to spread the message and joy of singing together, HCS Voices will run open events and concerts to promote singing in choirs in Kirklees. Watch this space – we will be advertising these events widely and inviting everyone to join us in singing.

Our objective – to get more people singing – stays the same: HCS Voices is a choir for all, irrespective of experience and ability; it is open to anyone over 18 years of age, and everyone is welcome. You are warmly invited to come along to rehearsals at 7 p.m. each Wednesday at New North Road Baptist Church.

## CONCERT DATES FOR VOICES AT MURC

Christmas Concert – 12<sup>th</sup> December 2026

Spring Concert – 13<sup>th</sup> March 2027

Summer Concert – 12<sup>th</sup> June 2027



# BECOME A FRIEND TO HCS

Why not become a 'Friend' to HCS and support the growth of our world-class choir?

'The Friends of Huddersfield Choral Society' was established in 1995 to enable our supporters to be even more involved in the growth and success of the Society.

You can become a Friend for just a small annual donation of £30 for up to two named Friends. For this, you can enjoy priority booking for all our individual concerts at the Town Hall, including the Christmas Concert – which is not included in the Season Ticket.

Your annual contribution will go directly towards helping HCS create high-quality choral concerts by bringing top-class orchestras and renowned soloists into Huddersfield for our local community to enjoy.

In addition to this, there are further benefits to being a Friend, such as:

- Entry into a Prize Draw for two tickets as VIP guests of our president at the Christmas concert
- Entry into Prize Draws for two balcony tickets for spring/autumn concerts
- A regular newsletter covering the life of HCS
- Discounted recordings of HCS
- And more

If you are interested in becoming a Friend then please contact Mary at [friends@huddersfieldchoral.com](mailto:friends@huddersfieldchoral.com)

or c/o HCS Friends, Revenue Chambers, St Peter's Street, Huddersfield, HD1 1DL

Phone: [07864 591844](tel:07864591844)

Mary Cadwaladr  
Friends' Secretary



Buy your season ticket now for bigger savings, exclusive rewards and easier travel! Great news for concert goers! Buy a season ticket for 2026–2027 and enjoy a whopping 20 per cent saving on the price of individual tickets!

Once you have your season ticket, you will join a group of our valued customers who, as well as having discounted tickets, are eligible for other exclusive benefits.

You will be automatically entered into a prize draw to win one of 50 invitations to a pre-concert reception before our Spring Concert.

Season ticket holders can also take advantage of our optional shuttle service. Introduced for the first time in 2025, it was well received, with audience members describing it as 'delightful'. One commented on the relief of avoiding a rainy walk through the town centre and instead travelling comfortably with our friendly driver.

### IT'S ALL ABOUT MUSIC

The choral sound in Huddersfield Town Hall is truly unique. Each year, Huddersfield Choral Society welcomes leading orchestras and world-class soloists to the compact but acoustically rich setting of Huddersfield Town Hall, giving audiences the rare privilege of experiencing their performances at close quarters. Huddersfield's Victorian concert hall possesses a character and atmosphere that make it one of the most memorable places to enjoy choral music.

I have been a regular season ticket holder for 40 years and I can thoroughly recommend it! Your seat is guaranteed for all three concerts – a whole year of glorious music to look forward to. There is something special about hearing the choir perform *Messiah* in Huddersfield Town Hall each Christmas. No matter how many times you experience it, the music never loses its magic and always feels fresh and inspiring.

With a season ticket, you'll enjoy the perfect blend of cherished favourites and thrilling new discoveries. Last year, we were treated to a world première by Kristina Arakelyan celebrating the making of music itself. This season opens with Mendelssohn's *Elijah* – a masterpiece of choral music featuring a dramatic clash between rival prophets, the spectacular whirlwind and fire from heaven, and the ethereal voices of angels. It promises to be an unforgettable start to the season.

If you would like to learn more about season tickets, or if you have any questions, suggestions or feedback about the subscriber experience, please feel free to get in touch. As Subscribers' Secretary, I am here to support our subscribers and help with any queries or concerns. You are very welcome to contact me at any time by email, phone, text or WhatsApp.



Laura

Laura Rawnsley  
HCS Subscribers' Secretary

Contact me at [subscribers@huddersfieldchoral.com](mailto:subscribers@huddersfieldchoral.com) or [07807 609610](tel:07807609610)

SUBSCRIBE TODAY

## 2026/2027 TICKET PRICES

	AUTUMN CONCERT 31st Oct 26	CHRISTMAS CONCERT 5th Dec 26	MESSIAH 19th Dec 26	SPRING CONCERT 10th Apr 27	SUMMER CONCERT 26th Jun 27	SEASON TICKET
CENTRE BALCONY	£40	£45	£65	£40	£TBC	£116
SIDE BALCONY	£35	£43	£56	£35	£TBC	£100
BALCONY WINDOW	£29	£35	£50	£29	£TBC	£86
CENTRE STALLS	£24	£32	£44	£24	£TBC	£71
LEFT AND RIGHT STALLS	£18	£27	£38	£18	£TBC	£57
GALLERY	£12	£21	£26	£12	n/a	£38
CONCESSIONS (UNDER 26-GALLERY)	£5.50	£10	£11.50	£5.50	n/a	n/a

● HIGHLIGHTED CONCERTS NOT INCLUDED IN SEASON TICKET

CHRISTMAS AND SUMMER CONCERTS:  
UNDER 16S – ALL SEATS (EXCEPT CENTRE BALCONY) HALF PRICE

## WHEN WILL TICKETS BE AVAILABLE?

Season tickets (subscriptions) will be available from 9.00 a.m. on Tuesday 14th July. Tickets for individual concerts will become generally available from 9.00 a.m. on Tuesday 15th September.

## HOW TO BUY TICKETS

Tickets for our concerts can be purchased online, via our website:  
[www.huddersfieldchoral.com/whats-on](http://www.huddersfieldchoral.com/whats-on)

Telephone: 01484 225755

Tickets can also be purchased in person from Huddersfield and Dewsbury Town Halls, Monday to Friday, 9.00 a.m.–1.00 p.m./1:30–4:30 p.m. (excl. bank holidays) and at Huddersfield Library, which is also open on Saturdays.

On concert days the box office is open 45 minutes before the concert starts and there will be a limited number of tickets available to buy at the door.

## HUDDERSFIELD TOWN HALL



## BOOKING FEES

For individual concerts, there is a Kirklees Box Office fee of 10% (up to a maximum of £2) per ticket (included in the prices shown).

There is no booking fee for season tickets



Online booking works best from a computer, but if you prefer, you can use your phone. Scan this QR code to book via our website.



For more information, including directions, public transport and parking, and to see a virtual tour of Huddersfield Town Hall, scan this code or visit <https://www.kirklees.gov.uk/beta/town-halls/huddersfield-town-hall.aspx>

# SUPPORT HCS THE NORTH'S PREMIER INDEPENDENT CHOIR

HCS is financially independent and receives no public subsidy. We can bring you the best in large-scale choral performance only because of the support of our subscribers, friends, patrons and sponsors.

## SEASON TICKET HOLDERS

Season ticket holders (traditionally known as Subscribers) have always been the bedrock of HCS support and always will be. And it is terrific value for money! See p.19.

## FRIENDS OF HCS

Friends of the Society contribute that bit extra and in turn get priority booking and other benefits as part of the HCS family. See p.18.

## PATRONS

Our Patrons offer more substantial financial support and enjoy concert hospitality, meeting the President's guests, artists and HCS team in pre- and post-concert receptions. The annual Patrons' Lunch is a particular highlight, bringing you truly 'behind the scenes' with the people who make HCS what it is. For more information contact Patrons' Secretary Graham Smelt: [grahamsmelt@hotmail.com](mailto:grahamsmelt@hotmail.com)

## ADVERTISE

Our concert programmes are high quality and a great place to get your business seen. Contact Ruth Cole at [ruthcole3012@live.co.uk](mailto:ruthcole3012@live.co.uk)

## CONCERT SPONSORS

Could your business be a Concert Sponsor? Sponsorship ensures that the Society can bring the very best artists to our Huddersfield Town Hall season, and comes with full publicity and VIP hospitality for your party. Sponsor a whole concert or one of the professional artists. Contact Sir John Harman: [john.harman@huddersfieldchoral.com](mailto:john.harman@huddersfieldchoral.com)

## BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP

Your business can partner with HCS in many ways, offering association with one of the North's most iconic cultural brands, and we are always ready to discuss how we can match your business needs. For example, we recently recorded the HTAFC fan anthem for the football club's celebration of the centenary of its triple championship win. You can offer an HCS benefit to your staff, or we can design musical experiences to support employee well-being. Find out more on our website at [www.huddersfieldchoral.com/sponsorship/](http://www.huddersfieldchoral.com/sponsorship/). To explore how we can work together, speak to our Partnership Officer, David Simcock: [partnership@huddersfieldchoral.com](mailto:partnership@huddersfieldchoral.com)

## SOUNDBOARD

Join the headline businesses whose structured support for HCS underpins all our activities and carries the reputation of Huddersfield far and wide, not only in the world of the Arts. Find out more on our website at [www.huddersfieldchoral.com/sponsorship/](http://www.huddersfieldchoral.com/sponsorship/) Please contact Sir John Harman: [john.harman@huddersfieldchoral.com](mailto:john.harman@huddersfieldchoral.com)

Ramsdens Solicitors

syngenta

RATHBONES



oxalis

Jack Lunn



# JOIN HCS! SING, LEARN, BELONG

HCS offers a rewarding choral experience led by our team of music professionals, including our Music Director, Associate Conductors, Accompanist and Vocal Coach.

Their guidance supports our musical development whilst we sing both well-known favourites as well as new and challenging works. There is plenty of enjoyment along the way, and a strong sense of collective achievement when the music comes together. HCS is a friendly community in which members form lasting friendships. New singers consistently highlight the warm welcome they receive.


To join, you will firstly be invited to a couple of rehearsals to try us out. If you enjoy the experience, the next step is a straightforward audition. This includes singing two brief pieces: one of your

choice and one provided a few days in advance (so there's no sight-reading). To gauge your vocal range, you'll also be guided through a few simple vocal exercises.

You should be able to read music and be aged 18 or over. If you'd prefer a non-auditioned option, we'd be delighted to welcome you to HCS Voices, our community choir. For those under 18, our youth choirs offer a fantastic alternative.


Interested? Get in touch to find out more:


Helen Martin at [info@huddersfieldchoral.com](mailto:info@huddersfieldchoral.com)  
[07864 591844](tel:07864591844)



Huddersfield Choral Society  
Revenue Chambers, St Peter's Street  
Huddersfield, HD1 1DL

+44 (0)7864 591 844  
info@huddersfieldchoral.com  
huddersfieldchoral.com

 /HuddersfieldChoralSociety

 @HuddersfieldChoral

Registered Charity Number: 1100851