

Saddleworth Musical Society Appointment of Musical Director October 2024

About Saddleworth Musical Society Information for applicants

Saddleworth Musical Society was founded in 1958 with the object “to advance the education of the public in the art of music through the performance by the Society of concerts shows and other activities”

At the heart of Saddleworth Musical Society (SMS) are the following ideals:

- No auditions are required for entry to the choir
- Sight reading though helpful is not essential
- No one should be excluded from membership due to their financial situation or disability.
- Rehearsals should be enjoyable whilst at the same time demanding and developing the choir.
- The selection of musical events and programmes should reflect what audiences want to watch.
- Inclusivity in all areas of activity including events with younger people when appropriate

SMS is a friendly mixed voice choir currently with approximately 60 members and like many choirs is starting to rebuild and look to the future post- Covid. New singers are always welcome at any point of the year to participate in all or any of the three events planned for each year.

Typically there is a concert in May at the Local Civic Hall based on popular choral works and latterly the May concert has developed into a concert of two halves to reflect audience feedback with choral classical pieces in the first half and lighter more popular works in the second half. A show has traditionally been performed in October until the impact of Covid and the closure of the local secondary school in Uppermill has led to a need to rethink that model and for 2024 the Society are planning a concert of favourite items from Rogers and Hammerstein block busters at the Millgate theatre in Delph. A Christmas concert often including children from the local school in Diggle takes place during December either in the Civic Hall or the Methodist church in Uppermill.

Post-Covid a group of members have also undertaken outreach work separate to the main body of the choir through an Out and About group who come together as and when in support of charitable activities within the community. We have also hosted several workshop events in the past couple of years some in conjunction with the Saddleworth Male Voice choir to aide re-engagement and develop the choral skill of the choir which have been very well attended and enjoyable . It is hoped to run a workshop to develop singing technique and performance skills for in house experienced and budding soloists alike to build potential and talent for the future.

The Society rehearses on Thursday evenings throughout the year at the Methodist church in Uppermill from 7.30 to 9.30pm. During concert weeks additional rehearsals are held as required and always on the afternoon of the concert with accompanist/orchestra/band soloists etc. in attendance.

The Society is governed by a charitable trust, with volunteer officers from the choir committee as trustees. The AGM is held annually in May in place of a regular rehearsal with all members encouraged to attend. The committee under the direction of the chair Mirriam Lawton is the body responsible for the appointment of the Musical Director and Accompanist as the only paid self-employed members of the Society.