



Accompanist/Repetiteur Information Pack and Job Description

Introduction: Stewkley Singers was founded in 2006 to provide music for the Christmas services at St. Michael's Church in Stewkley. As membership has grown from the original fifteen singers to the fifty strong choral society thriving today, the choir has approached more challenging repertoire and is now one of the leading amateur choral societies in Buckinghamshire. It also prides itself on being the friendliest!

The Stewkley Singers is proud of being a non-auditioning, welcoming, all-inclusive group. Members come not only from Stewkley but surrounding towns and villages including Whitchurch, Wing, North Marston, Leighton Buzzard, Aylesbury, Winslow and as far afield as Dunstable, Princes Risborough, Milton Keynes and Olney. We rehearse on Thursday nights throughout the Autumn and Spring/Summer terms and enjoy a variety of social activities throughout the year.



Stewkley Singers is seeking a gifted **Accompanist/Repetiteur** to work with us from January 2027. Ideally, the candidate would also be able to play the organ.

We rehearse on Thursday evenings from 7:30 – 9:30pm at St. Michael's C of E Primary School, Stewkley LU7 0HA. We usually put on two concerts each year, with one in late November/early December (usually held in St. Barnabas Church, Leighton Buzzard) and one in early/mid May (usually accompanied by an orchestra, and held in All Saints Church, Leighton Buzzard).

Stewkley Singers operates two semesters of rehearsals each year. We rehearse for approximately twelve weeks in our Autumn term (Semester 1) and approximately sixteen weeks in our Spring/Summer term (Semester 2). This totals approximately 28 weeks over the year. We then have a long break after our May concert until we start again the following September.

Our programmes are varied, with the Semester 1 concert tending to feature lighter repertoire accompanied by piano/organ and the Semester 2 concert featuring larger works, usually with an orchestra.



Recent concerts have included Mozart's Mass in C minor K.427, Orff's Carmina Burana, Verdi's Requiem, Elgar's The Dream of Gerontius, Brahms' Requiem and Bernstein's Chichester Psalms as well as more modern repertoire such as Karl Jenkins' The Armed Man and Howard Goodall's Eternal Light.

Who are we looking for?

We are seeking a professional Accompanist/Repetiteur who is able to provide rehearsal accompaniment and, where necessary, concert support on continuo, piano and organ. They should also be prepared to stand-in as director when the MD is absent and/or take voice-rehearsals as appropriate. Please note that the requirement for an organist may not necessarily be essential if, in all other respects, the right candidate makes an application.

Candidates should be at home with both 'classical' choral works: the major works of the repertoire, the shorter, less well-known works, and the contemporary fields, together with a willingness to embrace lighter repertoire where appropriate. He/she will be an energetic and 'fun' player (and, on occasion, choral director) who can play with sensitivity as well as technical competence and will wish to be part of what is one of the leading amateur choral societies in the area. He/she will have a good sense of humour, and a willingness to join in and work cheerfully and collaboratively with our dynamic Musical Director (Jenny Morgan) in building the musical strengths of the choir.



Job Description

The principal duties of the Accompanist/Repetiteur are as follows:

- To play piano, accompanying the choir, at rehearsals and, where applicable, workshops and concerts (essential);
- To be able to stand in for the MD where necessary, directing the occasional rehearsal and/or taking subsections of rehearsals (e.g. where the MD wishes to rehearse voice parts separately) (essential);
- To aim for the highest possible standards both at rehearsals and concerts, consistent with the choir’s musical and financial resources (essential);
- To be a competent singer and to have some knowledge of vocal/choral technique and directing (desirable);
- To be able to play continuo and organ parts at concerts where applicable (desirable).

.....

“THE CHOIR... GAVE ONE OF THOSE ONCE IN A LIFETIME PERFORMANCES THAT WAS SO FULL OF SHEER MUSICIANSHIP, IT WAS DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE THEY WERE AMATEUR SINGERS.”

***REVIEW OF OUR 2024 VERDI REQUIEM BY PAUL DICKENS,
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC, ALL SAINTS’ CHURCH, LEIGHTON BUZZARD***

.....

The Accompanist/Repetiteur should:

- Be a dynamic communicator, able to enthuse and motivate choir members, with a good sense of fun, and a passion for and joy in music from a range of historical periods and lighter, more contemporary, styles (essential);
- Have an advanced keyboard experience, able to achieve high standards in both rehearsal and performance whilst retaining a light touch and a sense of humour (essential);
- Be able to suggest deputies where absence is necessary (essential);
- Have an experience of choral directing (desirable);
- Consider, if you wish, participating in the choir's social and other activities (desirable).

What we can offer you:

- Working as a key figure in "Buckinghamshire's friendliest choral society", a group with an excellent reputation gained over the past two decades;
- A challenging and enjoyable range of music for rehearsal and performance together with a choir who are at home with the traditional choral fare and exploring new and exciting repertoire;
- An expert Musical Director who is ambitious in programming and has high expectations as to the quality of work produced;
- An efficient and hard-working committee overseeing the running of the choir;
- Provision of all scores required;
- Competitive remuneration.



Rehearsals

Typically, each rehearsal begins at 7:30pm and we then rehearse until around 8:30pm when we break for fifteen minutes. Coffee and tea is available and we ask members to bring their own mugs to save on the washing up! We then rehearse again until 9:30pm. We run a weekly raffle for a bottle of wine which is drawn before the second half of the rehearsal, and this is also the time that any notices are given to the choir.

We have a range of social activities throughout the year and would hope that the accompanist/repetiteur will wish to support these, although this is not an official part of their role.

Stewkley Singers is a member of *Making Music*
(<https://www.makingmusic.org.uk>)



Fees and Conditions of Appointment:

Rehearsals £80 per week (2 hours plus preparation; approximately 28 weeks per year)

Concerts (as accompanist/soloist) £200, to include afternoon rehearsal on the day of the concert. Where a lesser role is required on the day (eg. continuo), this will be by negotiation.

These fees equate to around £2500 per annum which we believe is competitive for a choirs such as ours which meets for two semesters a year, with a long summer break.

Please note that the quoted fees are inclusive of travel expenses.

Fees are paid monthly in arrears and upon receipt of an invoice for work completed.

For other events, such as 'Come and Sing' workshops, and choir tours, fees will be by negotiation.

The Accompanist/Repetiteur will be engaged by the choir on a self-employed basis on a fixed term contract. There will be a probationary period of one semester (full preparation for one concert/ set of concerts), at the end of which the post will be confirmed by the committee together with the MD.

Should the Accompanist/Repetiteur be unable to attend a rehearsal, he/she must inform the committee as soon as possible and arrange a suitable replacement so that the rehearsal can proceed as planned.

Notice of termination on either side will normally be one whole semester in order to allow an effective recruitment process to be put in place whilst the choir is in session.

Applications:

Please download an application form from the following web-page:

<https://www.stewkleysingers.org/accompanist/>

and send the completed form together with a covering letter and CV (with details of two referees).

This should be emailed to ronsims@live.co.uk

Please mark the 'subject line' to include the words **Accompanist/Repetiteur** application.

Any preliminary enquiries can be made to the same email address as above, or texted/WhatsApped to 07786 753035.

**Application deadline:
Friday 24th September 2026 at noon.**



Verbal Interviews (probably online) will be held in the week beginning 5th October 2026 and short-listed candidates will be invited to accompany the choir at a portion of a Thursday night rehearsal in early November 2026. Choir members will be consulted and vote on who they feel is the most suitable appointment for the choir.

Candidates will be notified of the results within 14 days following this.

We look forward to receiving your application.

For more information about the choir, please also look at our website – www.stewkleysingers.org

