

EASINGWOLD COMMUNITY SINGERS and HELMSLEY ARTS CENTRE SINGERS –WHAT ARE WE ALL ABOUT?

***CHOIR ETHOS**

Easingwold Community Singers and Helmsley Arts Centre Singers are inclusive groups, suitable for anyone who enjoys singing. Our main aims are to boost wellbeing and happiness through singing, and to create the best sound we can for ourselves and our audiences. Everyone will be encouraged to take part in the performance opportunities through the year but it is accepted that there are some members who do not wish to perform.

A positive, encouraging atmosphere is key, with everyone being co-operative and respectful towards others. As such, no negative, racist, sexist, homophobic, transphobic or other judgmental comments, whether written or verbal, will be tolerated.

Members are able to message each other and the leader via the choirmate app. Messages should be singing related and should also conform to the above positive and inclusive ethos of the choirs. If anyone has any concerns about the behaviour, whether in person or online, of another choir singer, they should contact Jessa by email in strictest confidence, and any issues will be dealt with sensitively. This has never happened, and most likely never will, we just need to mention it just in case.

***HEALTH DECLARATION / NEXT OF KIN**

ECS AND HACS pride themselves on their inclusivity, and all singers will be welcomed where it is safe for them to take part. Singers are asked to let Jessa know of any conditions that could cause a risk to themselves or others in rehearsals/performance, and all singers are asked to provide a next of kin contact in case of illness during a choir event. This information should be given on the relevant google form, in strictest confidence. Although great care is taken to ensure every singer's safety at sessions and events, singers attend at their own risk.

***SESSIONS AND MEMBERSHIP**

ECS and HACS are operated via a monthly subscription payment via Go Cardless. Membership fees are reviewed annually. The membership includes roughly 32 sessions through the year, as well as performance opportunities. There will be no refunds for non-attendance, unless special long-term circumstances are communicated to Jessa in advance. In the case of more than one session having to be cancelled, eg due to leader illness or bad weather, Jessa will endeavour to make up the time another way. Anyone who wants to leave ECS/HACS should just get in touch with Jessa and a subscription can be easily cancelled, given some notice.

***PHOTOGRAPHY / VIDEOS**

Photos and video clips will be taken regularly at rehearsals and performances to celebrate and advertise the choir. These will often be shared online, as this is a vital part of maintaining a choir's profile. If anyone has a legal/personal reason for not being able to have their image shared, please let me know in strictest confidence. Please note that at public performances, it is not possible to guarantee that you will not be photographed.

***MUSIC**

ECS uses a mixture of lyric sheets and sheet music, depending on the song. For each arrangement purchased, a copy is bought for each singer to comply with copyright law and ensure the writer/arranger is properly remunerated. Music/lyric sheets/tracks given out/downloaded are for your own use only within the context of ECS/HACS and should never be shared with other choirs/groups.

***CONTACT DETAILS**

Contact details will be stored securely on password protected devices/accounts, and will not be shared with third parties. They will only be used to communicate about ECS/HACS and other singing related events/opportunities, eg Jessa's monthly voice notes update by email.

**EASINGWOLD COMMUNITY SINGERS AND HELMSLEY ARTS CENTRE SINGERS –
MEMBERSHIP and TERMS SEPTEMBER 2025**

Membership of Easingwold Community Singers and Helmsley Arts Centre Singers, at £20 per month spread over the year, includes :-

*a place at ECS or HACS, with the option to attend the other venue when more convenient, or both sessions leading up to joint performances (roughly 32 choir weeks across the year)

*all the music/lyrics you will need, plus tracks where available (sheet music will be purchased or copied legally and where possible, available to print from the choirmate app. Lyric sheets and single sheet music will usually be provided for you, some short songs will be taught completely by ear.) Anyone without access to a printer should let Jessa know or find a choirmate buddy who will print for them.

*access to the choirmate app, which includes a choir calendar with sessions and performances, messaging services, and song resources. This app can be used on a phone or tablet and this is the main method of communication for the choirs. Anyone not able to check choirmate regularly should buddy up with someone to make sure they don't miss out on important information.

*performance opportunities - these may be for separate choirs or joint events, these may be in Easingwold, Helmsley, York, or other locations as opportunities arise.

*a Facebook live/playback option (in our private Facebook group) for those who can't make a session in person. These online sessions are recorded at the ECS sessions on Wednesdays, but are just as useful for HACS members, with both groups covering the same songs.

#The annual cost is split evenly over 12 months, making it easy to budget and predictable

Once the payment system is set up, nobody needs to do anything! The payments will just come out monthly on a fixed date.

#The system is very easy and quick to set up – all you need to do is click on the link, and fill in the form. You'll just need your bank account number and sort code – GoCardless will then set up a direct debit.

The link is here (please note, current members already paying monthly, DO NOT SET UP ANOTHER PAYMENT)

ECS

<https://pay.gocardless.com/BRT0001Z338C1DT>

HACS

<https://pay.gocardless.com/BRT0003B76910V9>

Please also fill in the membership form here, if you haven't already. Current members, only fill in again if any of your details have changed. (read the terms and conditions first)

ECS

<https://forms.gle/YB88eT8d4W822wwW7>

HACS

<https://forms.gle/A2ef1KCvtF5t63P58>

FAQ

What if I would like to leave the group in the middle of the year?

This is rare, but always possible. Just get in touch with me and I can cancel your subscription – I do ask for a month's notice where possible.

How have the payments been calculated?

The membership reflects the overall benefits of membership as well as the weekly sessions. Much time is spent researching/choosing music, planning sessions/events, creating tracks, publicity, updating choirmate....and costs include music, room hire, paper and ink, public liability, choirmate, membership of professional organisations, training, as well as my time.

Although the choir payments are not using a 'per session' model, the monthly payment of £20 equates to around £7 per session, and includes all the benefits listed above, offering great value compared to other classes/activities in the area eg yoga/pilates.

What if I find myself in financial hardship?

As I have always said, I would not want someone to miss out on the benefits of choir for financial reasons. If you are struggling, do get in touch with me in strictest confidence and we can work something out to enable you to continue through difficult times, when choir can be particularly beneficial. I realise it is hard to reach out, but please do if you are in this situation.

Can I pay per term?

Ideally, I would like everyone to sign up to the monthly membership if they would like to take part in ECS or HACS. In cases of long-term illness or people being away for long periods, or other rare situations related to banking etc, we will be able to work something out.