

## The Occasional Singers seek new Musical Director



**The Occasional Singers** are a well established *a cappella* chamber choir, of some 30 singers, based in Dorchester, Dorset, singing both sacred and secular music covering a wide range of styles. We were formed by Rick Birley and Peter Oakes in 1994, so we are fast approaching our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We currently give two concerts a year: Advent and Summer.

Our name will tell you something about us. We do not hold weekly rehearsals throughout the year, but normally hold two Saturday singing days, and about five rehearsals, normally on Thursday evenings in Dorchester, in the weeks leading up to each concert.

Most of our members are experienced singers, who also sing in other more regular groups, but enjoy singing together on an occasional basis.

The regular venue for our Advent Concert is St Mary's Church, Edward Road, Dorchester. Summer concert venues have included Milton Abbey, Dorset County Museum, St Mary's Roman Catholic Chapel, Lulworth Castle, and churches in Purbeck and Weymouth.

Our present very highly regarded Musical Director is Dr Richard Hall, who is Director of the Dorset Rural Music School. After many successful years of association with us, Richard is standing down after our summer concert in 2018.

We therefore now seek a new Musical Director to join us in the autumn of 2018. We seek someone with appropriate musical education and experience, including good keyboard skills (we do not have a regular accompanist), and the ability to select a suitable repertoire, to inspire and lead the singers, and to achieve excellent results.

We are an informal organisation. We are not a registered charity, but hold an AGM each year, which elects a committee, including a Treasurer, Secretary and Chairman. The Musical Director is asked to attend occasional committee meetings.

It has been our practice in recent years to cover the running costs of the choir through membership subscriptions, and to donate ticket income, or the proceeds of a retiring collection, to a named charity. These have included Save the Children, Médecins Sans Frontières, Weldmar Hospicecare Trust, and Parkinson's UK. Contributing to the wider community in this way is part of our ethos and is important to us.

We are prepared to pay an honorarium, to be discussed with the successful applicant.

If you are interested in discussing this opportunity with us, please contact:

David Jenkins (Chairman) or

☎ 01308 897 019

**Jenkins@bucklersbid.co.uk**

Elizabeth Gowers (Secretary)

☎ 01935 425 383

**occasionalsingersdorset@outlook.com**

We should like interested applicants to provide us with a CV, setting out your previous experience and your ideas for the future of the group. Would you please provide this by e-mail to **Elizabeth Gowers** by Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2018.

We have in mind asking shortlisted applicants to join us at our next singing day on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February, for us to meet and get to know each other.

If this opportunity is of interest to you, we should very much like to hear from you.

<https://occasionalsingersdorset.wordpress.com/>