



President - Michael Hancock

**These comments arose out of a recent consultation with choir members in December 2023.**

**Characteristics of the choir:**

- The Wordsworth Singers is an *a cappella* chamber choir which enjoys concentrated rehearsals in a relaxed but focused atmosphere.
- Fewer rehearsals necessitate more efficient use of rehearsal time.
- The intensive rehearsals are appreciated by members for logistical reasons associated with work patterns; for avoiding the difficulties of a weekly commitment; for maintaining the freshness of the music because it is not over-rehearsed.
- The quality of music-making is paramount, maintained through auditions and the expectation of 100% rehearsal attendance.
- A variety of music is sung, mainly unaccompanied, occasionally accompanied and from every era.
- There is a combination of high standards through good sight-reading skills and preparation at home, so time is not wasted in rehearsal. Rehearsals are for making music together, not learning notes.

**The Director of Music:**

- The successful candidate should show exceptional leadership ability, coupled with well-developed interpersonal skills.
- The Director of Music will be an excellent conductor with knowledge of voice production. He or she will be able to develop our ability to balance and blend voices for particular performances; and to develop differing voice production methods for differing effects.
- We need visionary planning and someone to inspire us.
- The Director of Music should have competence in conducting an orchestra of professional players as well as voices.
- The Director of Music will have the freedom to plan each programme and choose repertoire for the season, to provide direction and focus and continuity of vision.
- We have worked with a wide range of conductors who have brought new techniques into the choir. This should continue to be part of our ethos.