The Elmbridge U3A Choir

“Since singing is so good a thing I wish all men (sic) would learn to sing”. So said the 16th Century composer William Byrd, a view echoed by the Elmbridge U3A Choir, now in its 25th year. The choir was founded in 1994 and has been under the leadership of its present conductor, Ray Blues, since 2002. There are currently around 30 members and we perform three main concerts each year, usually at Eastertide, Summer and Christmas. We sing music from the classics, sacred and secular, Christmas Carols, songs from the shows, traditional songs, Madrigals and community “sing-a-longs”. Christmas Carols and the Eastertide concert of sacred music are performed at St. Peter's Church, Hersham. Our concerts are free of charge but we nevertheless aim to provide a high standard of music and performance. For example, at this year's Easter Concert the choir, with guest soloists, performed the 'The Last Supper', a short Cantata by Eric Thiman, to a large and appreciative audience.

We rehearse at Hersham Baptist Church where a light-hearted summer concert is also performed. This year's concert in July will be celebrating the 30th Anniversary of Elmbridge U3A. The rehearsal atmosphere, though rigorous and professional, is always relaxed and friendly and there is time for refreshments when people can get to know each other.

We welcome new singers, ladies and (especially) men in all parts: soprano, alto, tenor and bass. There is no audition but we suggest that those interested come and sit in on a rehearsal to see if they would like to join. It helps if new members are able to read music or have experience of singing in a choir however long ago, but this is not essential. If you are interested in joining the choir and would like to talk it over, please call our Chairman Tony Smith on 01483 479 648 or our Musical Director Ray Blues on 01932 862 788.

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