

Choir Resources: Rehearsal Aids

There are many very useful sources of help, available mainly from the internet, which greatly assist with practising between rehearsals. It's a good idea to get familiar with all of them and choose what suits you best. This leaflet is to help you access some of these rehearsal aids.

A separate leaflet "**Your Sound Setup**" ([HERE](#)) is devoted to helping with your sound equipment, so that you can obtain the best sound quality from these rehearsal aids.

A. Listening to full performances:

In order to get the general feel of a piece, without getting into the detail of your individual part, any of the sources listed in this section do a good job.

- YouTube
- Spotify
- Apple Music
- CDs
- Downloaded MP3 files

*Let's assume we want to listen to Puccini's *Messa di Gloria*. On a google search, "*Messa di Gloria*", The *Filharmonia Narodowa* performance comes up first, but I click on the RCM version below it and start listening. After some minutes, I decide to change the speed ... I click the cursor over the video of the performance, the "settings" symbol (like a cogwheel) is now visible at the bottom of the picture. One click on the settings symbol gives me the option of **slowing down or speeding up the recording without changing the pitch!***

One can change the speed without changing the pitch and also transpose some MP3 files using various "slow-downer" Apps.

B. Listening to your own part with, or without, other voice groups, or just the accompaniment.

Often free with paid subscription options. Individual parts are available separately to assist learning a particular part, but also combined with the other parts to mimic the full choral sound.

*(As an example, we'll assume you're a soprano, looking for Puccini's *Messa di Gloria* on John Fletcher's site).*

John Fletcher's Rehearsal files <https://johnfletchermusic.org>

*After clicking the above hyperlink, which takes you to John Fletcher's homepage, read his guidance on using the site. Then type "Puccini" in the search box. The Puccini works that are available are now listed. The second work listed is *Messa di Gloria* and is FREE. Click on the hyperlink – the soprano part for the *Kyrie* is now showing. You have the option of listening to the soprano part with accompaniment, or all voices with accompaniment or just the accompaniment. Scroll down for the *Gloria* etc.*

In the same way, follow the guidance on the other websites to get the best from them.

John Hooper <http://www.learnchoralmusic.co.uk>

Cyberbass <http://www.cyberbass.com>

No doubt there are many other useful resources out there. If you find any, let someone in the committee know and we'll add to this leaflet.

This is one of a series of leaflets to help members. If you feel that this leaflet can be improved or that a leaflet on any other topic would be useful to some members, please let anyone in the committee know.