



Thomas Coats Memorial Choral Society Newsletter Autumn 2012

From the President

Season 2013 is almost upon us. This season we look forward to working with our new Musical Director, Andrew Nunn. Andrew has lots of enthusiasm and has been organising and arranging the concert since the middle of the summer, liaising with the Royal Scottish Conservatoire to ensure that on Sunday 17 March everything will run smoothly.

It will be good to see all our members at the first rehearsal in January but please be on the look out for new members, especially men!

Have a Good Christmas and New Year.

Ruth

From the Musical Director

Well it now seems like a lifetime ago that I came to audition for you whilst you were preparing for the Poulenc! Since then the committee and I have been really busy at work putting into place all the necessary preparations for what is going to be a fantastic concert. As many of you will already know, the repertoire for this coming season is the Mozart Solemn Vespers and the Haydn Nelson Mass, both fantastic works of the classical period which will complement each other really well. We will be accompanied by the wonderful Royal Conservatoire of Scotland Chamber Orchestra who will also perform a concert with one of the winners of the annual concerto prize; this will give us all a little rest in the programme as this will be conducted by one of my fellow student conductors at the RCS. I have already booked the soloists who are all top quality and I think you will really enjoy having them around on the day; they are not only very talented, but good friends of mine personally. All are current students or recent graduates of the RCS. Soprano is Victoria Atkinson who has just finished her masters, mezzo is Laura Margaret Smith who is in her final year at the opera school, tenor is Raoni Hubner who is also in his final year of opera school and Chris Nairne will be our baritone and he has just finished his masters. All fantastic soloists who will complement our performance wonderfully. To be honest I cannot wait to get going with our rehearsals! I have been planning for so long now and have been listening to the pieces and preparing my scores, I am itching to get started. January will come around in no time at all though and I hope that you all have a lovely Christmas break and restful New Year. I know that I am looking forward to mine! I should leave you with a last message though and that is that you MUST bring a pencil and eraser to all rehearsals. I will give you markings at each rehearsal which it is essential you put into your copies. Eraser is to rub out existing markings that might be in the scores or in case I change my mind... artistic license and all that! Also, if you miss a rehearsal, for whatever reason, I must ask that you try and copy the markings into your parts from someone else in your section. Just to establish this good practice before we start rehearsing! I can't wait for us to get started!

Andrew

Scholarship? Sponsorship? - What do you think? Can you help?

The committee have been considering the difficult issue of how to recruit more tenors. One suggestion has been the possibility of some kind of scholarship scheme where we would offer payment to a couple of strong tenors in order to give support to the tenor section and also to the whole choir. We would like to know how member would feel about this idea. We have also discussed how this could be paid for and wondered if a sponsorship scheme could be introduced and are looking for views on this idea—and also ideas on who might be interested in sponsoring in this way?

Please give this some thought and let us know what you think of the ideas



Congratulations to our Musical Director!

As you may know Andrew is also Conductor of Les Sirènes Choir—and they recently won the BBC Choir of the Year 2012. The final is to be broadcast on BBC4 at 7.30 on 23/11/12.

links to midi files./ rehearsal CDs

Below are links to midi files to assist individual rehearsal; for each movement there is a midi file of each individual part, where that part is emphasised over the others. If you click on the name of the movement it brings up an unemphasised version where all the voice parts are played. This is good for practicing when people have already learned their parts.

Nelson Mass:

<http://www.learnchoralmusic.co.uk/Haydn/Nelson/nelson.html>

Mozart Solemn Vespers:

<http://www.learnchoralmusic.co.uk/Mozart/Vesperae/vesperae.html>

If you have no computer access or would prefer a rehearsal CD, please speak to a committee member .

For more information on how to join please contact the secretary Joanna Boddy:

Phone: 01505 816110 Mobile: 07990 975970 Email: Coatschoral@btinternet.com or visit our website:

www.thomascoatschoral.org.uk .

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Concert Dress—reminder

Ladies- long black skirt or smart black trousers with a black top with either full length or ¾ length sleeves (i.e. no short sleeves); the small splash of red should be some kind of plain red accessory such as a scarf, jewellery etc.

Men- black or dark trousers with a black collared shirt; the splash of red for them will be a plain red tie (no patterns) and this can be a bow tie if preferred.

Programme Advertising

Each year we donate the proceeds from donations for our Programmes to ACCORD, the local hospice. We are able to do this by obtaining advertising in the programme, and meeting the production costs from this income. We need someone to take responsibility for the task of seeking advertising this year. If you are able to help with this or with taking advertising space please speak to the Secretary.

Rehearsal info 2013

Concert Sunday March 17th @7.30pm

Tuesday	January 8th @7.30pm
Tuesday	January 15th @7.30pm
Tuesday	January 22nd @7.30pm
Tuesday	January 29th @7.30pm
Tuesday	February 5th @7.30pm
Tuesday	February 12th @7.30pm
Tuesday	February 19th @7.30pm
Friday	February 22nd@7.30pm
Tuesday	February 26th @7.30pm
Friday	March 1st @7.30pm
Tuesday	March 5th @7.30pm
Friday	March 8th @7.30pm
Tuesday	March 12th @7.30pm
Friday	March 15th @7.30pm
Sunday	March 17th @2pm

Concert Management

Help is always needed for furniture moving on the day of the concert and then to return the church to normal a couple of days later. Some of our members are not as fit as they were and therefore we are looking for assistance with this from younger (and fitter!?) people. They don't have to be members of the choir but just be willing to help us with this task. If you know of someone who can help with this please speak to Sandra Cochrane who has responsibility for concert management this year.

Tea/ coffee

Our tea break is an important part of a Coats rehearsal but will only happen if sufficient people put their names on the rota – please make sure you take your turn and put your name down.

It was suggested at the AGM that the price of tea should be raised; the committee has therefore decided that Tea and Coffee at rehearsals would increase to 50p

This will act as a means of fundraising—an alternative to having a coffee morning!

Gift Aid has changed - HMRC tightened up on Gift aid rules relating to Subscriptions

We now can only claim back the portion of the subscription which is not classed as tuition. You can only put in your tax return (if you complete one) the same amount which we can claim. For the choir year 2012-2013 the amount on which Gift Aid is deemed to be reclaimable is £38.10 (Tax £9.53)

The second tightening up on the rules is that a spouse cannot gift aid the other spouse's subscription. **Each individual has to Gift Aid their own subscription.** I would ask that all those who are in this position please speak to me and complete a separate Gift Aid Declaration.

As in the past you can only Gift Aid your subscription if you pay enough tax to cover the tax on the amount Gift Aided. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask me at an appropriate time.

Gift Aid is an important source of income, especially when we currently receive no grant or guarantee from any body.

I thank you all for your assistance with this matter.

Roger

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

We are planning to repeat our invitation to our Associate members to join us for the rehearsal on Tuesday 29th January. This will be an opportunity to catch up during an extended tea break and either join in on the rehearsal or just sit in if that is the preference!

Recruitment/ new members/ publicity

As always recruitment is important in order to maintain the size of the choir—and this is particularly so for tenors and basses. A recruitment flyer is being sent out with the registration information. Please pass this on to anyone who may be interested in joining or display it where it might be of interest.

We would also ask that all members assist to publicise the choir and the concert—concert posters will be available late January.

Committee 2012-13

President	Ruth O'Boyle
Vice-President	Sandra Cochrane
Secretary	Joanna Boddy
Treasurer	Roger Roddick
Making Music Rep	George Johnson
Librarian	Jenni Wright

Ordinary Members

Morag Cameron	
Audrey Peacock	
Mairi Paterson	
Graeme Simpson	
Musical Director	Andrew Nunn
Accompanist	Joyce Cockburn

From The Treasurer - brief summary of financial matters

We ended the year with a balance of £6,025 after a deficit of £339 on a cash basis.

The concert activities within the accounts produced a deficit of £345, and we still have a donation of £420 to be presented to Accord as a result of programme donations less any related direct costs.

At the AGM the following items were approved: Full Subscription £45.00, Associate member subscription £15.00, Student Subscription £10.00, Full Tickets at £9.00, Student Tickets at £5.00. All these contribute to a small surplus of £75.00 for 2013 which should leave us with £6,000 as a balance of funds after all expenditure and income for the 2013 season has been accounted for.

The committee asks you encourage new members and also sell at least two tickets.

Gift Aid is important and there is a note elsewhere on this newsletter. We will recover just over £600 for last year a reduction from 2012. Irrespective of how much we receive it is an important source of income.

Enjoy the new season.

Roger

Music Editions

- Mozart - edition Breitkopf
- Haydn - edition Schott

Concert day Rehearsal schedule

Our super organised MD has already drawn up the rehearsal schedule for the day of the Concert so we thought it would be good to share this with you now!

1.30 Orchestra Coach leaves RCS, arriving at TCM about 2pm

2.15- 4.45 Choir rehearsal; choir can leave 4.45

4.45 – 5.30 orchestra rehearsal

7.00 Choir members back at church