



Thomas Coats Memorial Choral Society

Musical Director Andrew Nunn

WWW.THOMASCOATSCHORAL.ORG.UK

A CHARITY REGISTERED IN SCOTLAND SC003075

From the President

As I write this the rain and wind are battering against our windows and that wonderful early autumn spell of warm dry weather is just a distant memory. However this is more like Choral Society rehearsal weather (!) and I trust you are all looking forward to some great singing once the festive season is over.

The Mozart requiem is certainly one of my favourite choral works and hopefully being such a well known and well loved piece will encourage new and perhaps some previous members to join us this season. We have been distributing flyers in Paisley inviting singers to come and join us and this year, following a suggestion from one of our Members, our 'Open Rehearsal' will be on the first night i.e Tuesday 5th January. It would be marvellous if everyone could bring a friend that night - I'm sure Andrew would not be too overwhelmed!

Our final Committee meeting before the end of the year is on Tuesday 24th November so if you wish to raise any items or make any suggestions or comments please let Joanna know.

I am looking forward to seeing you all again on the 5th January and send my very best wishes for Christmas and New Year."
Sandra



From the Musical Director

I am so excited about this coming season of the Thomas Coats Choral Society. This is my favourite time of year; I absolutely love Christmas! This is good for now, but when January comes it leaves me feeling a bit low. However, I am always left feeling renewed and uplifted by our fantastic rehearsals and this year is going to be no different. The Mozart **Requiem** is one of the greatest choral works of all time and I am so looking forward to our performance in the beautiful and amazing setting of Thomas Coats. I have chosen to pair this choral masterpiece with some smaller, lesser-known works. The Haydn **Insanae et Vanae Curae** is a short piece with a huge impact, which shares many similarities with the Requiem. A piece that is completely new to me is the Beethoven **Meeresstille und glückliche Fahrt** (calm sea and prosperous voyage). I am really looking forward to learning the piece and preparing it with you as I will forever remember you as the first choir I performed it with. The RCS orchestra will then perform a piece by Mendelssohn of the same title and we will then lead into the Requiem with a performance of a short Brahms piece called **Geistliches Lied** (Sacred song). This is an incredibly beautiful and reflective work and I have found an unpublished version for strings and choir that Sir John Elliott Gardiner wrote and has given us permission to use; a very special privilege! I really hope that you are looking forward to working on this varied and exciting programme as much as I am. There will be plenty of challenges for you to get your teeth stuck into, including two of the works being in German!



Please do everything that you can to spread the word about our exciting season ahead. I am hoping that we have a really large choir this year of people who will want to come and sing the Mozart Requiem. The committee and I can do what we can but one of the best adverts for the choir is word of mouth. We are always keen to recruit tenors and basses and I hope that you will all do your bit in trying to get people along to the first rehearsal.

In the meantime, enjoy the festive season, do listen to the pieces and get them in the bloodstream. I so look forward to seeing you all in January with my new Christmas jumper...!

Andrew

Rehearsal Dates 2016

Tuesdays: @ 7.30pm

January 5 Open Rehearsal
January 12
January 19
January 26
February 2
February 9
February 16
February 23
March 1
March 8

Fridays: @7.30pm

February 19
February 26
March 4
March 11

Sunday March 13

Rehearsal with orchestra 2 pm
Concert 7.30pm

Les Sirènes
Female Chamber Choir
Christmas Concert
Andrew Nunn Conductor
Helen Thomson Harp, Christopher Nickol Piano, Fionnuala Ward Piano

Friday 11th December 2015, 7.30pm
The Mackintosh Church at Queen's Cross
870 Garscube Road, Glasgow, G20 7EL

Les Sirènes celebrate Christmas in the beautiful setting of the Mackintosh Church at Queen's Cross. Join the winners of Choir of the Year 2012 and welcome the festive season with the perfect combination of beautiful choral music and Christmas classics.

Tickets £10 and £6, free for RCS Staff and Students.
Available from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland Box Office
0141 332 5057 / boxoffice.res.ac.uk

@lessirenes CHOIR OF THE YEAR 2012 /lessirenesfc



Tea/ coffee

Enjoy your Coats' Cuppa? The 'tea fairy', is there to set up but she needs your help to serve and tidy up. Please put your name on the tea list which will be available at the first meeting and on a weekly basis thereafter; once a session is all that is required. N.B. We are an equal opportunities organisation, so come on men, lads, boys we welcome your help!



Margaret Dundas

PRESIDENT
SANDRA COCHRANE

SECRETARY
JOANNA BODDY

TREASURER
ROGER RODDICK



From The Treasurer - brief summary of the choral society's finances.

We ended the year 31st March 2015 with a balance of £7,523.89 after having a deficit of £491.58 for the year on a cash basis. The concert activities within the accounts together with outstanding bills at March produced a deficit of £552.85.

We still have a donations of £705.10 to be given to Thomas Coats Memorial Baptist Church which is the result of the income from programme donations and advertising income less the costs of printing the programmes.

At the AGM the following items were approved: Full Subscription £45.00, Associate member subscription £15.00, Student Subscription £10.00, Full Tickets at £10.00 (this change was agreed by the members at the AGM), Student Tickets at £5.00. This now means that our subscriptions have been held for a fourth year at the same level.

Thus for 2016, the estimated income less the estimated expenditure results in a deficit of £1,222. This would leave us with £5,642 as a balance of funds which is considered to be adequate to meet any unforeseen events in 2016. Since Making Music stopped guaranteeing losses the choir is self supporting.

I would ask you to encourage new members and also sell as many tickets as you can, it is our main source of income.

Gift Aid is important and there is a note elsewhere on this newsletter.

We recovered £667.53 for general funds last year and £131 for our "Sponsor a Tenor" fund. This was the second year of "Sponsor a Tenor" to enable the choir to have two additional tenors to support the Tenor section. £625.50 was raised in the year and we paid £500. If any one wishes to donate to this worthy cause can they please add it to the subscription indicating whether the choir can claim Gift Aid.

I look forward to seeing you in January 2016.

Roger

We now can only claim back the portion of the subscription which is not classed as tuition. You should only put in your tax return (if you complete one) the same amount which we can claim. For the choir year 2015-2016 the amount on which Gift Aid is deemed to reclaimable is £43.13 (Tax £10.78) These are HMRC Rules. We have, in the years since the new HMRC regime started, received the full refund! Making Music, who advised the choir of the changes and gave us draft calculations, have not commented on this.

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 if you have not done so. If you are in doubt whether you have a Gift aid declaration in place please ask me.

Important

1.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.

2.If you have changed address since you last signed a Gift Aid, you must complete a new one reflecting your new address.

3. If you cease to be a tax payer, the choir should not claim Gift Aid. If it does, and HMRC identify such an occurrence has happened, the member will be required to pay HMRC the amount the choir has claimed.

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

Sponsor a Tenor

Last year one of our Tenors wrote as follows in the newsletter urging members to support the Sponsor a Tenor scheme and I think it is worth repeating:

I would recommend that members of all sections of the Chorus contribute to the 'Sponsor A Tenor Scheme' next season - you don't need to give a large amount, as 'every little helps'! It really is a great support for the tenor section to have a few talented singers with us and ultimately helps the whole Chorus.

I thank you all for your assistance with this matter. Roger

Music Edition

Mozart—Novello

William Storm

We were very sad to hear the recent news of the death of **Bill Storm**. He has been a stalwart of the Bass section of the Choral Society for many years and he will be greatly missed by us all. **Bill** could always be relied on to ask a question at the AGM, which he attended regularly, and the committee always tried to anticipate what he would ask—not always successfully! Although we knew he was seriously ill, in typical fashion he did not want this widely known and he continued to attend rehearsals regularly last season; we know he was looking forward to being with us to sing the **Mozart Requiem** this season. The final item at the Thanksgiving service for his life at Central Baptist Church, was the **Sanctus from the Requiem**.

Want to help?

We now have a Facebook page which is updated regularly. This is now a major way for people to get information about organisations and we see it as an important way to ensure information about the Choir is available to anyone who might be interested in joining. If you are a user of Facebook please "like" and contribute!

Can you help the committee?- we have 2 vacant general member committee positions. If you wish more information please contact the Secretary.

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 Jenni Wright who has responsibility for concert management this year.

Committee 2014-15

President **Sandra Cochrane**
Vice-President **Jenni Wright**
Secretary **Joanna Boddy**
Treasurer **Roger Roddick**
Making Music Rep **Ruth Mitchell**
Librarian **Jennie Hynd**

Ordinary Members

Irene Cairns
Edith Fleming

Musical Director Andrew Nunn
Accompanist Joyce Cockburn

Additional Singers

We have had a couple of inquiries about singers (particularly tenors!) who know the Mozart, joining us later in the season. The committee will discuss this at our next committee meeting. We know that regular members can find it difficult when people come in to augment near to the concert and, whilst we want to have as full a choir as possible we also need to take into account the views of members. We would obviously prefer that anyone joins us for the full season but recognise that this may not be possible for some people who would provide a welcome boost to a section under pressure such as the Tenor section! We had a similar situation when we last did the Verdi Requiem and the decision then was to allow additional singers under certain conditions (ie: minimum number of rehearsals, knowledge of the piece, and acceptance at the discretion of the MD) along with a fee. It is likely that we will do this again and further information will be available in January for anyone who is interested. If you have any comments on this please let a member of the Committee know your views.