

Thomas Coats Memorial Choral Society

Musical Director Andrew Nunn

WWW.THOMASCOATSCHORAL.ORG.UK

A CHARITY REGISTERED IN SCOTLAND SC003075



Rehearsal Dates
2017
Tuesdays: 7.30pm
Thomas Coats
Memorial Church

January 10 Open Rehearsal
January 17
January 24
January 31
February 7
February 14
February 21
February 28
March 7
March 14

Fridays: 7.30pm

February 24
March 3
March 10
March 17

Sunday 19th
March
Paisley Abbey

Rehearsal with
orchestra 2 pm
Concert 7.30pm

From the Musical Director

Dear all,

I cannot believe that it is that time of year again! It truly is winter time and you can feel it in the weather. The dark nights are here and they are here to stay it seems! It won't be that long and we will be all coming out on the dark nights to come together to learn some fantastic pieces of the choral repertoire. I am very excited about this years programme that will be fun to learn and will be highly appealing for our audience. The Vivaldi Gloria is one of the standards of the choral repertoire and it will be wonderful for me to work on it with you and put our own stamp on it. The Puccini Messa di Gloria is an uplifting and vibrant choral work and one that I have not performed before- I feel really excited to learn this piece with you and for Thomas Coats Choral Society to the first choir I performed the piece with.



It will be sad that we won't be performing in Thomas Coats itself for our concert this year, but I think we should view this as something new and exciting and a wonderful chance for our choir to perform somewhere new. Paisley Abbey is an amazing venue and I know that the concert will be a huge success. We will once again be joined by the Symphony Orchestra of the RCS who will also perform a piece with a student conductor, which is likely to be the Mozart overture to the Magic Flute. I think this will add another dimension to our programme that makes it even more attractive for our audience.

Please do everything that you can to spread the word about our exciting season ahead to try to recruit singers. 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 to get them into the bloodstream and I will see you all in 2017!

Andrew



We wish everyone a happy and peaceful
Christmas and New Year!

From the President

Swithering?.....Well swither no more!

Your choir not only NEEDS you, but WANTS you to be with us for the new 2017 season. It just wouldn't be the same without you.

You know all the benefits of singing in a choir, so don't forget to add "Thomas Coats Choir Practice" to your New Year Resolution list! We have a great season to look forward to as Andrew enthusiastically outlines, in our usual rehearsal room with our wonderful accompanist to help us tune in AND a cuppa and a blether.... what's not to like?

The change of concert venue will be an opportunity to sing in The Abbey just as if we were 'on tour' and may even help us appreciate our own venue at Thomas Coats all the more when we get back!

So, dust off the old music case in readiness (or put a new one on your Christmas Present list), make sure your specs and pencil are in and come along and SING your socks off.....you know you're worth it!

Oh - and bring a friend on the first night if you can...the more the merrier!

Jenni



Recruitment -We need you!

Recruitment is always important and last year, although we lost some long standing members (for a variety of reasons), we were able to sustain our membership numbers with new members. Our first rehearsal on 10th January will be an open one so that people can come along and try us out with no commitment. We will publicise this as much as we can but, as Andrew says, many of our new members have joined us because of personal contact from someone who is already a member. Here is what a couple of members who joined last year said about us" **we were bowled over by the amazing calibre of the choir and the sheer musicianship of its members. The whole two month experience and the warmth of the welcome we received was an absolute joy** ".

Please do what you can!

Thomas Coats Memorial Church—update

The future for this wonderful building is still uncertain, despite the best efforts of a number of people and lots of discussions. It is a complex and difficult problem and options continue to be explored. In the interim the congregation is managing to worship in the sanctuary at present (with the aid of lots of warm clothes and some supplementary heaters) and the university graduations took place there recently. There is heating in the organ loft (probably the warmest place in the church!) in order to protect the organ. The heating in the hall is on a separate system and there is no issue with this so we are able to continue to use the halls for our rehearsals and to maintain our link with the church.



PRESIDENT
JENNI WRIGHT

SECRETARY
JOANNA BODDY

TREASURER
ROGER RODDICK



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

We ended the year 31st March 2016 with a balance of £7,604.42 after having a surplus of £215.53 for the year on a cash basis.

The concert activities within the accounts together with outstanding bills at March produced a deficit of £499.10.

We still have donations amounting to £1,530 for Thomas Coats Memorial Baptist Church. This 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 are increased to £12.00 due to the change of venue to Paisley Abbey, Student Tickets at £5.00. This now means that our subscriptions have been held for a fifth year at the same level.

For 2017, the estimated income less the estimated expenditure results in a deficit of £606. This would leave us with £5,757 as a balance of funds which is considered to be adequate to meet any unforeseen events in 2017. Since Making Music stopped guaranteeing losses the choir has been self supporting.

I would ask you to encourage new members and also sell as many tickets as you can, they are our main source of income. Gift Aid is important and there is a note elsewhere on this newsletter. We should recover £645 for general funds and £107 for our "Sponsor a Tenor" fund.

This was the second year of "Sponsor a Tenor" and this year our donations enabled the choir to have three additional tenors to support the Tenor section. £676 was raised in the year and we paid £750. This leaves £61 carried forward to 2017. 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 2017.

Roger

Want to help?

- We have a Facebook page which we try to update regularly. This is now a major way for people to get information about organisations and we see it as an important way to ensure up to date information about the Choir is available to anyone who might be interested in joining or coming to a concert. If you are a user of Facebook please "like" and contribute—and invite your friends to do so! We will retain some admin control over contributions but would welcome input from members. We will also be reminding our audience that photography and recordings should not be made during our concert. Quality control!!
- Can you help the committee? - we have 2 vacant general member committee positions.
- If you wish more information please contact the Secretary.

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. I try to check this as subscriptions come in but I may miss someone's change. Please let me know

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.

I thank you all for your assistance with this matter.

Roger

Paisley Abbey



We are still to sort out some of the details for our 2017 concert venue, but we understand we should be able to get access from 1.30 pm and therefore we will rehearse as usual from 2pm until 5pm with the concert at 7.30 pm. The change of venue has at least one advantage - we don't need to do any furniture removing! Tea and coffee after the concert has always been a good time to catch up with audience members and get some feedback, but this year we won't have facilities to provide this after the concert in the same way; however the Abbey cafe will be open throughout the day until after the concert. In a break from tradition, we are considering having an interval this year and would welcome members' views on this. On street parking is free in Paisley on a Sunday and the car park at Renfrewshire House (across the road) is also available. There may well be other issues that haven't occurred to us yet but if you have any questions please let a member of the committee know.



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.

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

Committee 2016-17

- President **Jenni Wright**
- Vice-President **Larry Watson**
- Secretary **Joanna Boddy**
- Treasurer **Roger Roddick**
- Making Music Rep **Ruth Mitchell**
- Librarian **Anne Nightingale**

Ordinary Members

- Irene Cairns**
- Gordon Clibborn**

Musical Director Andrew Nunn
Accompanist Joyce Cockburn