



Thomas Coats Memorial Choral Society

Autumn 2014

From the President

Where have the last few months gone? I am finding it difficult to believe that rehearsals for our next Concert will start in less than 8 weeks.

Following a lively AGM in May and subsequent meeting, your Committee has been discussing ways and means to not only increase Choir membership but also communication and feedback from Members.

We intend therefore, to circulate a survey of Members early in the season. Subjects for questions will include recruitment, the content of our repertoire, the format of our Concert, and communication between you and your Section Reps and Committee Members.

We also plan to make more use of our Website and Social Media and perhaps to produce a short video of a 'typical' Tuesday evening rehearsal - don't worry Gents, you'll have advanced warning to get hair and makeup done! It would be a great assistance if a Member would like to take responsibility for the Website updating etc. so please volunteer if you feel that you could help.

I am looking forward to seeing you all on the 6th January and getting started on this season's wonderful music

In the meantime, my very best wishes for the coming Festive Season.

Sandra

From the Musical Director

Well my Christmas Jumper collection is gradually coming out of the wardrobe and that means that we are approaching the Thomas Coats season! Time really does move very quickly and I am certainly looking forward to starting back and getting stuck into the repertoire for this year's concert. This year we will be looking at a piece which I have never done before and I am going to enjoy working on it with you because I know Thomas Coats will suit it very well! This is teamed with a very lively Te Deum by Haydn which will be a great opener to the concert. I hope you are looking forward to learning these two works and I know you will approach them with enthusiasm and good humour. We will be joined once again by the Royal Conservatoire Symphony Orchestra who just go from strength to strength and have delivered excellent performances for us over the last two seasons. They will also perform a concerto with a young instrumentalist from the Conservatoire, more details on exactly what this will be to follow. A little anecdote, I recently found a Thomas Coats programme at the Conservatoire which they were about to put in their archive of a concert in 2003 I think with Myra. The choir was huge at that point!! I couldn't believe it. It's not the quantity, it's the quality that counts, but on the matter of recruitment, we need to all work to spread the word about our forthcoming season, how much fun we have and how good the results are! So spread the word, bring people along and I know we are in for a good season. Please could I ask that you all listen to the pieces before the first rehearsal so that you have them in your mind before I start rehearsing? Can I also ask that you all come prepared with pencil etc to rehearsals and that if you do miss a rehearsal, you catch up on what you have missed and copy the markings in before the next rehearsal. I am looking forward to seeing you all in January, but before then, let's have a fantastic Christmas. See you in 2015!



Andrew

Rehearsal Dates 2015

January 6
January 13
Open Rehearsal January 20
January 27
February 3
February 10
February 17
February 24
March 3
March 10

Fridays: @7.30pm

February 20
February 27
March 6
March 13

Sunday March 15

Rehearsal with orchestra 1.45pm
Concert 7.30pm

Rehearsal schedule
15/3/15

1:30pm Coach leaves
RCS
1:45pm: Choir warm up in church
2:00pm: Orchestra arrives and sets up
2:15pm-5:00: Choral Rehearsal including a break.
5:00: Choir members leave and go home
5-5:45: RCS Concerto



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



We wish everyone a happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year

MUSICAL DIRECTOR
ANDREW NUNN

PRESIDENT
SANDRA COCHRANE

SECRETARY
JOANNA BODDY

TREASURER
ROGER RODDICK



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VISIT OUR WEB SITE: WWW.THOMASCOATSCHORAL.ORG.UK

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From The Treasurer - brief summary of financial matters

We ended the year 31st March 2014 with a balance of £8,015 after having a surplus of £964 for the year on a cash basis. The concert activities within the accounts together with outstanding bills at March produced a surplus of £225. We still have donations of £779.33 to be split equally between CLIC Sargent and St.Vincent's Hospice.: a result of 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.

Thus for 2015, the estimated income less the estimated expenditure results in an estimated deficit of £954. This would leave us with £7,000 as a balance of funds which is considered to be adequate to meet any unforeseen events in 2015. 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. Gift Aid is important and there is a note elsewhere on this newsletter. We should recover £700 for last year and £80 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. £524 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 I can claim Gift Aid.
 I look forward to seeing you in January.

Roger



YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A DIVA.....

You don't have to be a diva..... or even be able to read music to feel welcome and enjoy singing with Thomas Coats Memorial Choral Society as I discovered when I went along, somewhat tentatively, for the first time a few years ago. It helped too that you don't have to audition - I'd auditioned (successfully!) for another local choir but found it an intimidating experience. Experienced singers are more than happy to give support, the practice cds available at modest cost are a great help (even if the rest of the family eventually knows the pieces as well as any choir member!) and Musical Director Andrew Nunn gives lots of guidance. It's a process of Look (at the Musical Director), Listen and Learn intensively from early January until mid March each year but it's a lot of fun, and performing on concert evening in the magnificent setting of Thomas Coats Memorial Church with the orchestra of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland is truly exhilarating.

Jennie Hynd

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 2014-2015 the amount on which Gift Aid is deemed to be 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.**

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.

Thomas Coats Memorial Choral Society 'Sponsor A Tenor' scheme

As a member of the tenor section of Thomas Coats Memorial Choral Society, I can say that the 'Sponsor A Tenor' scheme is of great benefit for both the small tenor section and the Chorus as a whole. Over the last two seasons, the scheme has allowed the Musical Director to recruit two talented tenor singers from the Royal Conservatoire, who have joined us for the last few rehearsals before the concert and who have sung with the Chorus at the concert. The scheme allows them, in return, to receive a modest payment for their services and they have helped to boost the sound from the tenor section, as well as giving our small section more confidence, at the rehearsals and concert performance.

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 will contribute again next season and I hope that many of you will also do so.

Andrew Boney

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.

Sad News

We were sorry to hear of the death of Iain Young in August. Iain had been unwell for a while and was unable to be with us last season. He was a faithful and supportive member of the Bass section and was always ready to assist with tasks such as setting out chairs and moving furniture. He will be missed.

Rehearsal tracks

- Haydn:
<http://www.learnchoralmusic.co.uk/Haydn/Te-Deum/te-deum.html>
- Beethoven:
<http://www.learnchoralmusic.co.uk/Beethoven/Mass-in-C/massinc.html>

Committee 2014-15

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

Ordinary Members

Irene Cairns
Graeme Simpson

Musical Director Andrew Nunn
Accompanist Joyce Cockburn

Want to help?

Can you help the Choral Society develop its use of social media (Facebook, twitter etc) for publicity and promotion purposes?
 Can you help the committee?- we have 2 vacant general member committee positions.
 If you wish more information please contact the Secretary.