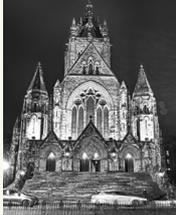


Thomas Coats Memorial Choral Society

Musical Director Andrew Nunn

WWW.THOMASCOATSCHORAL.ORG.UK

A CHARITY REGISTERED IN SCOTLAND SC003075



From the President

This popular logo format familiar to all of us should maybe be thus adapted for our mantra for the forthcoming season for 2018. The activity surrounding the future of Thomas Coats Memorial Church requires us to 'keep our heads while all about are losing theirs'. Plans are busily gathering force but we have been assured, that although we will be unable to use the sanctuary again for our concert next year, the rehearsal rooms downstairs will still be available. However, the committee, now having being alerted to all the proposals, decided that we had better have a Plan B in case, for whatever reason, we need to vacate our usual rehearsal space. Joanna has been exploring venue possibilities to have in place should we need an alternative at short notice. This also acts as a wise advance recce in case plans go ahead for building alterations in 2019 and we need to move out temporarily. That said, the Abbey has been booked for next March, Sunday 18th for our concert and Friday 16th March for our pre concert rehearsal. We have a challenging programme to prepare for and so we have included an extra Friday rehearsal should we need it and plan to include some welcome sectional practice for tricky corners. As we have committed to the chosen pieces, Andrew hopes for a good turnout of choir members for the forthcoming season and as last year, will have week one as a Bring a Friend night in the hopes of recruiting some new members.

**KEEP CALM
And CARRY On
Singing!**

So it is time again to look out recordings of our music to listen to, check if we have recommended the vocal scores or need to borrow from our librarian, buy some more throat sweets for your bag and block off Tuesdays and 5 Fridays in your new 2018 calendars and diary!! See you all in January

Jenni

Thomas Coats Memorial Church—update

As you know plans for Coats Memorial Church to be developed as an arts and entertainment venue have been submitted to Renfrewshire council and are currently going through the planning process. Please follow this link if you wish to see more information about the plans (<http://www.cmcpaisley.co.uk/>) The time scale for work to start is still unknown but it is hoped to be in the Spring of 2018. We will update you as information becomes available and we hope this will mean the building will have a viable future.

From the Musical Director

Dear all,

It is Newsletter time again and I cannot believe that it won't be long before we are all travelling out on a Tuesday evening for our rehearsals. Once again our 2018 concert will be performed in the magnificent venue of Paisley Abbey. We all know that it is different to Thomas Coats, but we need to accept the situation as it is and relish in the chance to perform in such a wonderful venue. In response to your feedback, our Friday rehearsal before the concert will also be held in Paisley Abbey, which provides a great opportunity for us to get to know the space, layout and sound of the venue without the pressure of the orchestra in front of us. I think this will make a big difference on the day of the concert, but it also requires absolute positivity from everyone so that we are working together as a team in order to achieve the best result.



We have a really ambitious programme from this year, the centre piece of which is the Mozart Mass in C Minor. This is a real challenge for us all, but I think it will push the choir beyond our usual comfort zone, singing music that is sometimes in 8 parts! I believe that you can do this, but to pull off this programme, it will need you to do work at home so that we can make the most of our sessions together. I think the sense of achievement when we pull this off will be amazing and it will absolutely be worth the work.

Recruitment is something that is absolutely essential in order for us to be able to achieve a performance to be proud of. The Mozart splits into 8 parts and so we need a choir that can do that. We had an excellent year for recruitment last year and a lot of this was through word of mouth and each of you 'on the ground' spreading the word about the choir. We need the same again and more this year in order to make this the biggest and best year that Thomas Coats has had. Not many choirs perform the Mozart C minor, so if you have friends in other choirs, get them along for this amazing opportunity not only to perform the work, but also to sing in Paisley Abbey with the RCS Orchestra; not many choirs can say they do that.

It's never too early to start listening and preparing the pieces and I know for a fact that some of you have already been working on the fugues from the Mozart! Do plenty of practice, spread the word about the choir, get your friends interested, but most of all, have a wonderful Christmas and see you in the New Year!

Andrew



Recruitment -We need you!

Recruitment is always important and last year, we were delighted to recruit a number of new members—including tenors and students from UWS! Our first rehearsal on 9th January will again 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. Feedback from our new members has been very positive; for some of them singing in a large choir was a new experience. And from their reactions it was one they very much enjoyed!

Please do what you can! Bring a friend!



Rehearsal Dates 2018 Tuesdays: 7.30pm Thomas Coats Memorial Church

January 9 Open Rehearsal
January 16
January 23
January 30
February 6
February 13
February 20
February 27
March 6
March 13

Fridays: 7.30pm

February 16th
February 23rd
March 2nd
March 9th
March 16th (at Paisley Abbey)

Sunday 18th March Paisley Abbey

Rehearsal with orchestra 2pm
Concert 7.30pm



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 2017 with a balance of £9,221.48 after having a surplus of £1,482.06 for the year on a cash basis. This balance is made up of General funds of £6,852.27, Sponsor a Tenor balance of £213.50, Amounts due to charities of £2,155.71.

The concert activities within the accounts together with outstanding bills at March produced a surplus of £214.54.

We still have donations amounting to £1,533.73 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. We also had £621.98 at 31/3/2017 for Accord hospice which increased after the year end when advertisers paid their bills.

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 sixth year at the same level. For 2018, the estimated income less the estimated expenditure results in a deficit of £1,536.44. This would leave us with £5,105.83 as a balance of funds which is considered to be adequate to meet any uninsured unforeseen events in 2018. 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 £630 for general funds and £97 for our "Sponsor a Tenor" fund.

This was the third year of "Sponsor a Tenor" and this year our donations enabled the choir to have two additional tenors to support the Tenor section. £652.50 was raised in the year and we paid £500. This leaves £213.50 carried forward to 2018. 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 2018

Roger

Music Edition

We know some members like to purchase their own score and the following are the editions we will be using:

**Handel Coronation Anthems:
Zadok the Priest and The King Shall Rejoice;
OUP Edition**

**Mozart Mass in C Minor:
Peters Edition**

Gift Aid

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.

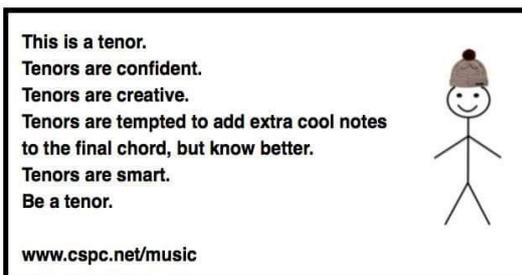
Gift Aid is an important source of income, especially when we currently receive no grant or guarantee from any body.

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

Sponsor a Tenor

These words from one of our long standing tenors bear 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.



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 too!
- Can you help the committee?— we have 2 vacant general member committee positions.
- The committee are also looking for a member (or members) to take responsibility for obtaining advertising for our Concert Programme. Alex Lawrie has done this very successfully for the last few years but is no longer able to do this. Thanks Alex! The advertising in the programme allows the printing costs to be covered and to raise funds for our chosen charity. The more we have the more we are able to donate. If you, or a small group of you, are able to help please let us know and we can provide more information on the task
- If you wish any more information contact the Secretary

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 2017-18

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

Ordinary Members

Anne Corney
Gordon Clibborn

Musical Director Andrew Nunn
Accompanist Joyce Cockburn