

Thomas Coats Memorial Choral Society

Musical Director **Ondrej Soukup**

WWW.THOMASCOATSCHORAL.ORG.UK

A CHARITY REGISTERED IN SCOTLAND SC003075



From the President
 With our wonderful summer weather a bit of a distant memory I am reflecting on what has so far been a tumultuous year of change. Jenni's message last year was "to keep calm and carry on singing" as we moved into 2018. Never a truer word was said!

After our March performance of the Mozart Mass in C Minor we had to find a new rehearsal venue for 2019 having learned that we could no longer use Thomas Coats Memorial Church. Then in June, Andrew was appointed Artistic Director of the Ulster Youth Choir. This was a really big career move for him but unfortunately it meant he could no longer continue with TCMCS.

Having already done some groundwork on a new rehearsal venue the committee quickly secured Holy Trinity St Barnabas Church for our 2019 rehearsals. We advertised, interviewed and auditioned for a new Musical Director and after the audition the choir voted by a substantial majority for Ondrej Soukup to take us forward into 2019.

2019 is going to be an exciting new year (new Musical Director, new venue) and I look forward to seeing you all on 8th January. I hope you also are looking forward to this new chapter in the life of TCMCS. Remember that our first rehearsal is Bring A Friend Night! Have a lovely Christmas

Larry



From the Musical Director

Dear all,

I am delighted to be welcomed into the choir as the new MD and I am very excited to see you all again in January to commence our rehearsals and our journey together. Before we meet again, I'd like to briefly introduce myself and share some ideas and other important information.



Ondřej is the Czech version for Andrew (note that conductor transition couldn't be smoother!) and I invite you to call me 'Ondra' like my friends do. Not only do I share my first name with your outgoing MD and my friend and colleague Andrew Nunn but we also share the want to keep the choir developing and flourishing. I have shared many ideas with the committee already of how we can take the choir further. These include musical goals like future programmes, in particular planning for our 40th anniversary concert. They also include expanding our horizons in terms of repertoire. Among others, I am strongly in support of nurturing our links with the RCS and other matters which are currently working very well. Non-musical ideas and goals that I have shared with the committee include ways of encouraging new memberships and advertising our concerts with an on-going focus on enlarging our audiences. We will be meeting with the committee again soon to discuss these and many other ideas further and I am sure it won't be long before you start seeing the results of our shared efforts!

Having said that, I would like to encourage you all to keep spreading the word about the choir to potential members of the choir and the audience. We will be doing lots of good work on the music we have this year so it would be a shame not to involve people who may be interested to be part of the experience not to mention singing with the talented musicians from the RCS! Likewise, all the work we will put in the rehearsals will deserve a large pool of audience members so let us all do our part in bringing family, friends, colleagues, neighbours and others to the concert.

Haydn's *Missa in tempore belli* and Bach's *Magnificat* are both truly magnificent works that I am very excited to be working on with you. Performing these works in the next concert will be a great way for us to get to know each other while singing an enjoyable programme full of some great fugues! I imagine many of you had listened to the Haydn before the audition day and I would encourage you to have a listen and to look at the Bach too! What better way to spend the Christmas break than listening to some Bach (ideally right by a fire place!).

I hope you have a wonderful Christmas holiday, I wish you all the best for the New Year and I look forward to seeing you shortly after!

Ondra

Rehearsal Dates 2019
Tuesdays: 7.30pm
Holy Trinity St Barnabas Church

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|-----------------------|
| January 8 |
| Open Rehearsal |
| January 15 |
| January 22 |
| January 29 |
| February 5 |
| February 12 |
| February 19 |
| February 26 |
| March 5 |
| March 12 |

Fridays: 7.30pm

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|----------------------------------|
| February 15 |
| February 22 |
| March 1 |
| March 8 |
| March 15th (at Paisley Abbey) |

Sunday 17th
March
Paisley Abbey

Rehearsal with orchestra 2pm
Concert 7.30pm



Want to help? There are lots of ways for you to be involved!

- ♪ 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?— As our financial situation becomes more difficult we believe we may be eligible for some grants and are looking for someone to help in completing grant applications.
- ♪ The committee are also looking for a member (or members) to take responsibility for obtaining advertising for our Concert Programme. Irene is happy to put our programme together but does not have time to seek out advertising for the programme; experience tells us this is much more successful if someone from the choir makes personal contact. The advertising ensures printing costs are covered but also has allowed us to contribute funds to a chosen charity. If you , or a small group of you, are able to help please let us know and we can provide more information about the task.
- ♪ We need someone to take responsibility for managing our website. It is currently done by Ross, who is a former member but now lives in Dingwall! It would be great if a current member or friend could take on the task of keeping this updated We are grateful to Ross for his continuing support but would like to relieve him of this! Can you help?
- ♪ If you wish any more information contact the Secretary



PRESIDENT
LARRY WATSON

SECRETARY
JOANNA BODDY

TREASURER
ROGER RODDICK

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

We ended the year 31st March 2018 with a balance of £8,020.05 after having a deficit of £1,201.43 for the year on a cash basis. This balance is made up of General funds of £5,180.71, Sponsor a Tenor balance of £333.25, Amounts due to charities of £2,506.09.

The concert activities within the accounts together with any relevant outstanding bills at March produced a deficit of £1,671.56.

We had £941.98 held at 31/3/2017 for Accord Hospice and £30.38 at 31/3/2018 in addition for Accord Hospice which increased after the year end when advertisers paid their bills to £350.38.

At the AGM the following items were approved: Full Subscription £60.00, this has increased due to the increase in rehearsal venue costs,; Associate member Subscription £15.00; Student Subscription Free, Full Tickets are to £12.00 as in the previous year, Student Tickets at £5.00. Our subscriptions were held for six years at £45.00 and circumstances have now changed.

For 2019, the estimated income less the estimated expenditure results in a deficit of £1,360.00. This would leave us with £3,820.71 as a balance of general funds which is considered to be barely adequate to meet any uninsured and unforeseen events in 2019. 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 in this newsletter.

We should recover £600 for general funds and £100 for our "Sponsor a Tenor" fund.

This was the fourth year of "Sponsor a Tenor" and this year our donations enabled the choir to have two additional students to support choir sections. £619.75 was raised in the year and we paid £500. This, together with the balance brought forward, leaves £333.25 carried forward to 2019. It is now called "Sponsor a Singer" because we will use the funds to support any section which was deemed to require support.

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 2019 at the new venue, Holy Trinity and St. Barnabas.

Roger



Many thanks to one of our members, Isobel Digges, who spoke with a relative who sings with Paisley Philharmonic choir—and as a result they have now changed the date of their concert so that it will not clash with ours!

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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



Farewell to Andrew

The timing of Andrew's

resignation meant that we have not had the chance to say farewell. He is keen to have that opportunity so we hope to be able to organise something in the New Year. Please let us know if you have any thoughts about the format of this.



RECRUITMENT

Recruitment is always important and last year we were delighted to welcome a number of new friends to our open rehearsal and even more delighted that they stayed with us. This is especially important this year in view of all our changes!

Our first rehearsal on 8th 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, we know 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 and people really enjoy the experience of singing with an orchestra and a large choir.

Please do what you can! Bring a friend!



Music Edition

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

Missa in tempore belli ("Paukenmesse"), Haydn

'Old' Novello scores, Berthold Tours arrangement, London Novello 1878,

NB: Anne understands that the KALMUS edition K06245 is the same as the original Novello edition

Magnificat in D Major, J.S Bach
Barenreiter ed A Durr c1956

Rehearsal refreshments



The tea break has always been an important part of the TCMC rehearsals but at the moment we are not sure if we will be able to use the kitchen at Holy Trinity St Barnabas. The kitchen is accessed through the hall, which is in use by another organisation when we are there, so this might be a problem! We will continue to have a break but please come prepared with your own drink. It does mean that we have less disruption for tea making and no need for a tea rota! Every cloud has a silver lining!!

Thomas Coats Memorial Church—update

As you all know, Coats Memorial Church closed at the end of August following the decision of the congregation to dissolve. It was a very emotional time for church members but the service of celebration as part of the closing process was well attended and uplifting. A number of TCMC members came along to sing—either as part of the choir or in the congregation and the singing was great! This was much appreciated by church members.

The future of the building continues to be uncertain although the trustees continue to work hard to try and ensure the future. Responsibility for the building is still to transfer to the new Trust but I understand that a fund-raising appeal is likely to be launched in the New Year and we will keep you updated on this.



Joanna

Committee 2018-19

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

Ordinary Members

Anne Corney
Gordon Clibborn

Musical Director Ondrej Soukup
Accompanist Joyce Cockburn