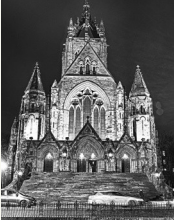


# Thomas Coats Memorial Choral Society

Musical Director **Ondrej Soukup**

[WWW.THOMASCOATSCHORAL.ORG.UK](http://WWW.THOMASCOATSCHORAL.ORG.UK)

A CHARITY REGISTERED IN SCOTLAND SC003075



## From the President

This year will be our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, a milestone for the choir and an occasion to celebrate and I know that you will be looking forward to January, rehearsing the Brahms Requiem and putting Brexit behind you!

The committee are hoping that with our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the fact that we are performing such a well known piece then new members, and old members, will be encouraged to join us. I would ask you this year to think of any friends or colleagues who may be interested in singing with us and inviting them to come along in January.

Our final committee meeting before the end of the year was on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November but if you wish to raise any issues or put forward any suggestions or comments then please let Joanna or any committee member know.

Looking forward to seeing you all again on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January and I send you all my best wishes for Christmas and New Year.

Larry



much as we can but, as both Larry and Ondřej have said, 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 is that people really enjoy the experience of singing with an orchestra and a large choir.

We know that our move to a new rehearsal venue was not straightforward but unfortunately it is difficult to find suitable alternatives. The committee is working to try to resolve some of the issues as much as we can—particularly the difficulty with hearing what is being said. We do hope that in future years we may be able to return to Coats!

**Please do what you can! Bring a friend!**

## From the Musical Director



Dear all,

What a great concert it was in March performing some Haydn and Bach! I felt very warmly welcomed by the whole choir in our first season together and I

cannot even express how excited I am to see you all again to start working on Brahms' Requiem in January! This is a huge anniversary for us as the choir will have existed for 40 years – wow! Let's make it a really special one!

There is so much that is special about the Coats choir: long tradition; good quality of singing; performing with wonderful orchestra and soloists; and I could go on and on. It is very important we fully understand how special this group is and that we each do our part to make sure the choir is still in existence 40 years from now, and at least as good as it is now if not better! For that to happen, in addition to your commitment to rehearsals and learning the music, we all have to do our part spreading the word about the choir. Without regular members, there is no choir; without an audience there is no real performance, and without that we cannot fund wonderful young musicians and beautiful venues. The committee has been working hard on this but we're all in it together so do take initiative and responsibility please. All the behind-the-scenes does not happen automatically and the more volunteers we have, the less work per person needs to be done. Some beautiful concert and recruitment posters will be out soon, as well as an updated website so do look out for those!

Ondřej

### **Open rehearsal**

Our first rehearsal on 7<sup>th</sup> 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

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

- ♪ Like us on Facebook and invite your friends to do so too
- ♪ Put your name on the Tea Rota
- ♪ We still 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

### **Rehearsal Dates**

**2020**

**Tuesdays: 7.30pm**

**Holy Trinity St  
Barnabas Church**

January 7  
**Open Rehearsal**

January 14

January 21

January 28

February 4

February 11

February 18

February 25

March 3

March 10

### **Fridays: 7.30pm**

February 15

February 22

March 6

March 13  
(at Paisley Abbey)

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup>  
March  
Paisley Abbey**

**Rehearsal with  
orchestra 2pm**

**Concert 7.30pm**



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

We ended the year 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 with a balance of £7,014.36 (2018 £8,020.05) after having a deficit of £1,005.69 (2018 £1,201.43) for the year on a cash basis. This balance is made up of General funds of £3,727.52 (2018 £5,180.71, Sponsor a Tenor balance of £460.75 (2018 £333.25, Amounts due to charities of £2,826.09 (2018 £2,506.09).

The concert activities within the accounts together with any relevant outstanding bills at March produced a deficit of £1,453.19 (2018 £1,671.56.)

We had £941.98 held at 31/3/2017 for Accord hospice and £350.38 at 31/3/2018 in addition for Accord Hospice making a total of £1,292.36.

At the AGM the following items were approved: Full Subscription £70.00, 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 until 2018 and circumstances have now changed.

For 2020, the estimated income less the estimated expenditure results in a deficit of £2,399.50. This would leave us with £1,328.02 in the general funds which is considered to be inadequate to meet any uninsured and unforeseen events in 2019. Since Making Music stopped guaranteeing losses in 2012 the choir has been self supporting. Thus any shortfall has to be met by the members or other means.

I would ask you to encourage new members to come to enjoy the Brahms German Requiem and also to sell as many tickets as you can as they are our main source of income.

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

We recovered £840 for general funds and £105 for our "Sponsor a Tenor" fund relating to 2019 member's contributions.

This was the fifth year of "Sponsor a Tenor" and this year our donations enabled the choir to have two additional students to support choir sections. £627.50 was raised in the year and we paid £500. This together with the balance brought forward leaves £460.75 carried forward to 2020. It is now called "Sponsor a Student/Chorister" because we will use the funds to support any section which is thought to need 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 2020 at Holy Trinity and St. Barnabas.

Roger

#### **Committee 2019-20**

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**  
**Joe Bouch**  
**Ian Munro**

**Musical Director Ondřej Soukup**  
**Accompanist Joyce Cockburn**

#### **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. I thank you all for your assistance with this matter.

Roger

#### **Rehearsal refreshments**



We were delighted to find a solution eventually to our missing tea break last season and will continue to have a break. We hope everyone will take this opportunity to catch up with other choir members, especially anyone who may be new to the choir.

We want to cut down on the use of disposable cups as much as possible so please feel free to bring your own mug or cup to rehearsal. This reduces the impact on the environment as well as reducing the amount of rubbish we need to take away with us.

A small group of us will be bringing the flasks, tea, coffee etc but we will still need people to take a turn on the rota for setting up and clearing away.

**VACANCY**

#### **Forthcoming committee vacancies!**

*After 20 years as secretary I have decided it is time to give someone else the opportunity to do this! I therefore plan to stand down at the AGM in May 2020.*

*Roger has also decided that he will stand down as treasurer in May 2021 - by which time he will have been treasurer for 20 years!*

*These are both important tasks for ensuring the smooth running of the choir so if you are interested in either position please have a chat with Roger or myself.*

Joanna



**Coats Venue**  
Music • Arts • Events

Coats church has a new name and work is starting on transforming it to a new events venue. The new trust plans a formal opening in April 2020 when the initial phase of work is complete. It is available for bookings now although there are limitations until the work is complete. We have had some initial discussions about a possible return to Coats. It does not seem feasible as a concert venue for us for 2020 as there is no confirmed date yet for the installation of the new heating system for upstairs. This is not an issue for the halls downstairs which could be used for rehearsals but would be more expensive than our current rehearsal venue. The trust are keen to have us back so we hope to have further discussion on this and agree a longer term plan!

The committee would welcome any thoughts or comments you might have on a possible return.

Joanna

#### **40th anniversary celebrations**



As you all know 2020 will be our 40th anniversary concert. The committee are considering ways to mark this and one of the suggestions is some kind of social event as we have done in the past on significant anniversaries. One possibility is hiring the hall at Coats venue and organising a meal and get together or having a dinner at a local hotel. If you have thoughts or suggestions on how to celebrate please speak to a committee member.

**From the librarian**  
We know some members like to purchase their own score and : for the Brahms Requiem the music we will be using will be :  
**the New Novello Choral Edition**  
c1999  
**Edited by Michael Pilkington**  
**ISBN 0853609799**

Anne