



Chairman

Mark Elliston

I can't believe four months have gone by since we were all together singing the Brahms *Requiem* in the Cathedral at the end of March – I know a number of you have been rehearsing for Three Choirs, but for those who haven't been singing during the Summer I, for one, am looking forward to getting together again in September for the start of what promises to be another exciting season of musical repertoire for WFCS.

However before I continue with what's coming up this year, let me reflect on that Brahms concert. Thank you all for your commitment and enthusiasm in making that concert the great success it was – we worked hard and put on a good performance. In our midst that night was a music critic from the Independent (Margaret Campbell) and she gave us fulsome praise which was published in various local papers... "Brahms's 'German' Requiem is a compelling composition by anyone's standards, but when it receives a performance such as that given in Worcester Cathedral on Saturday 28 March, by the Worcester Festival Choral Society, the ESO conducted by Adrian Lucas, and two outstanding soloists, it was riveting.....". Praise indeed !

Finally, it was very nice to see so many of you gather, with our Patrons and honorary guests, in the Chapter House for a post concert and end of term drink – my thanks go to the Cathedral Bellingrings for putting on the real ale bar and to the Cathedral caterers for the wine bar – but my special thanks go to the various committee members who worked hard to help stage the event.

I would like to thank Margaret Renney and Jenny Brumhead as they retire from the general committee of WFCS. Margaret has been serving on the committee for the last 10 years, latterly as Patrons Secretary and Jenny Brumhead retires as Publicity and Marketing secretary. A big thank-you to you both for the work you have done over the years on behalf of the society. N.B. I'm still looking for someone to take over responsibility for our Publicity – it would not be a demanding role, but is nevertheless important for the Society to keep our profile as high as possible.

Patrons

Margaret Renney

I would like to express my great appreciation for the help and support I received during the time I was in this post to: Patrons Eleanor Grison and Douglas Garrard. Members of the choir: Anne Lee, Joan Willis, Mary-Ann Garrard, Anne Lechmere, Pam Schermuly, Leon Joynes and Sue Spackman. Many thanks, Margaret

Open Rehearsal

We are always looking for new members to join us. The Open Rehearsal held in January was a great success, with 57 prospective members attending, and 25 confirmed members staying with us. We will be putting on another Open Rehearsal on Monday, 14th September. Please start spreading the word now and encourage anyone you know, or who has moved into the area, to come and try us out!

Season 2009/2010 – Dates for your Diary

- 7th September 2009** First rehearsal
- 14th September** Open Rehearsal
- 21st September** AGM (after a shortened rehearsal)
- 14th November** Scarlatti *St Cecilia Mass*, Duruflé *Requiem*
- 12th December** Handel, *Messiah*
- 20th March 2010** Vaughan Williams *A Sea Symphony*, Richard Strauss *Four Last Songs*

Subscriptions

David Norledge

As you all know, members subscriptions form the backbone of WFCS revenues and effectively fund our musical programme for each season, covering the inevitable losses made on concerts. None of us welcome additional costs in our lives and for that reason the Committee seeks to restrict increases in the level of subscriptions wherever possible. However the time has come where we need to raise the annual subscription again to ensure we can face the next few seasons including our 150th Anniversary, with confidence. **My proposal is therefore to increase subscriptions by £10 to £90 with immediate effect, then by a further £10 to £100 in 2010-11.**

Looking round at other societies, it's clear that £100 is a fair level for subscriptions to be at. In fact Gloucester will be charging £110 for the 2010-11 season. However, I recognise that we are talking about a sizeable 25% rise from the current level of £80, which is why I'm proposing to phase it in over two years. Remember that for your sub, you get to take part in three good quality concert performances, as well as working with and learning from Adrian and Chris. Even at £100 per annum the cost of your Monday night rehearsals is less than that of an evening class, a cinema ticket, or even a humble fish supper! Each £10 rise in subscriptions puts about £1,500 into the Society's coffers and so helps us carry on the musical traditions we are all proud of.

Raffle

A very big Thank You to our weekly raffle organisers, Louise and Janet. The raffle raised £517.75 last season. This extra money goes a long way in helping us pay our way – soloists and orchestras do not come cheap! Please support Louise and Janet as much as you can next season.

Amazon Ordering

A reminder of another painless way of raising money for WFCS. Any orders on Amazon placed via the link on WFCS website will generate money for the choral society – so simple! Income from Amazon has raised £72 to date.

Preparing for our 150th Anniversary, 2011

An informal group comprising Mark Elliston, Patrick Aydon, David Norledge and Anne Renshaw has met to begin thinking about both events and fundraising for our 2011 Jubilee. We aim to make this anniversary a year to remember not only with our concerts but also with a gala dinner. In the meantime we need to raise funds to meet what might be some fairly hefty costs that year. Ideas so far mooted include a quiz night, coffee morning and plant sale, auction of promises etc. We'd really value your participation and input in helping to organise the Jubilee and any fundraising - because we know there are some great talents in the ranks of the Chorus! Don't worry - you wouldn't be roped into endless meetings. All we need is your energy and enthusiasm!

Ticket sales by Choir members

We need to sell as many tickets as possible for our concerts

- To encourage people to listen to this wonderful music
- To have a large and responsive audience to sing to
- To keep the Society solvent!

And we are the best ambassadors for ticket sales.

- Do you know someone who might like to become a Patron? Patrons have priority booking and are entertained in the interval with honorary guests
- Have you considered becoming a Patron yourself?
- Buying ticket(s) as a present/gift for a friend or family (birthdays, Xmas, as a thank-you)
- Can you suggest further ways of promoting our concerts?
- Can you suggest a possible sponsor?

Committee Contacts

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