

The Choral Chronicle

WORCESTER
FESTIVAL
CHORAL
SOCIETY

Spring 2010

Chairman

Mark Elliston

Although we are now rapidly approaching the end of the 2009/10 season and all looking forward to performing this wonderful work Vaughan Williams' *Sea Symphony*, I would like to thank you all for your dedication and commitment in making our first two concerts of the season the successes that they were. Hopefully you may have read the many fantastic reviews we received from certain music critics in the audience – if you haven't read them yet, they can still be viewed on our website.

As you know we held another Open Rehearsal at the start of last term to encourage new singers to come and join us and swell our ranks. This is likely to become an annual event as it's important to keep our numbers up and maintain our great tradition of choral singing for generations to come. As a result of that evening I'm very pleased to welcome the following new members to our midst:

Sopranos: Karen Gorman, Carolyn Heading, Chris Shepherd, Liesje Thomas, Tina Brooks, Catherine Bettles, Esi Amonoo-kuofi, Susan Reeve, Mary Price, Trish Collette, Sheila Latham, Jacqui Porter and Sally Wright.

Altos: Barbara Ford, Liz Gardner, Anna Hooper, Anke Richmann, Laura McQuitty, Val Castle, Nicola Preece.

Tenors: Toby Hooper, Wynne Harries.

Basses: John Coughtrie, Steve Phillipson.

Social Events and Fund Raising. As we approach our 150th anniversary year in 2011, your committee have agreed that, in order to keep our financial situation in good order and in anticipation of higher costs for that year, we need to start raising funds as a priority. This objective fits in nicely with our other aim of encouraging members to meet and socialise, *outside of the cathedral*, as this ultimately makes for a much more cohesive and team-spirited choir. So I'm delighted that **Sue White**, who only joined the choir in January last year, has risen to the occasion and has volunteered to be our Social Secretary. We wish Sue well in her role and ask that you give her as much support as you can, particularly as we've landed her with the job of doing the catering for the **Quiz Night** but also for organising our first ever **Coffee Morning and Plant Sale** on Saturday, May 1st in the Guildhall, this should hopefully be a good money raising event - please tell all your friends to come.

Congratulations to our Musical Director, Adrian Lucas, on this tremendous appointment to conduct the Philharmonia in this prestigious concert in aid of ClassicFM Music Makers on Monday, 15th March at the Royal Albert Hall. Amongst other works, Adrian will be conducting Elgar's Cello Concerto with Julian Lloyd-Webber. Best of luck Adrian on the night, we're with you all the way!

Finally...As we round off this season with Vaughan Williams *Sea Symphony* and Strauss's *Four Last Songs*, please do your utmost to publicise it and sell tickets for this concert. It promises to be a truly wonderful concert but comes at a not inconsiderable expense. We will also be welcoming two local charities at the concert, namely **Acorns Hospice** and **Noah's Ark Trust**. They will jointly be holding a retirement collection to raise funds for the many good causes that they do, i.e. looking after seriously ill and bereaved children in Worcestershire.

Season 2010 - 2011 Concerts

- **Saturday, 20th Nov** Mozart - Mass in C Minor, Mendelssohn – Psalm 95
- **Saturday, 11th Dec** Handel - Messiah
- **Saturday, 2nd Apr** Elgar - Pomp & Circumstance March, Stanford – Songs of the Fleet, Elgar – Sea Pictures, Walton - Belshazzar's Feast.

Coffee Morning and Plant Sale
Saturday, 1st May, 10am – 12.30pm. The Guildhall, Worcester

Sue White

WFCS needs you ! We need all members to get busy spreading the word and publicising this event as well as providing plants and cakes please on the day. Here are some ideas of how you can help:
Plants. House plants –take some cuttings now from African Violets , spider plants, cacti etc.
Vegetables - plant some seeds in seed trays (Use trays that you have had plants from garden centres in, or individual pots, margarine tubs etc) pots of 4 , trays of 6 or 12
Annuals – plant some seeds and pot on or buy mini plug plants and pot on
Perennials – now is the time split the plants that are rather large in the garden
Fruit canes/plants – strawberry runners, blackcurrant cuttings etc.
Cakes. On the day we will need lots of cakes – sponge, fruit, large small individual cakes, buns etc.
We also need some **helpers** on the day please.
This is a real opportunity to raise funds for the society and benefit everyone in our music making.
My mobile tel no is: 0797 0597 229

To Russia with Love

Sarah Giles

Sarah (S) has told me of her plans for this summer. She's returning to Russia for a week in the summer to work in an orphanage for children aged 8-18. "I am going with a charity called Love Russia. The children live in very basic conditions and I am going to help run a Holiday Club/ Summer Camp again. We had great fun, with a wonderful team of talented British volunteers and Russian interpreters, who were students of English from the nearest University. Visit www.loverussia.org to find out more or come and talk to me! "

Good luck Sarah!

Librarian

Joan Willis

All borrowed music must be returned to our Librarian by the night of the concert. If for any reason you find that you are unable to sing in the concert then please return your music as soon as possible and at the latest at the last Monday rehearsal before the concert. If you cannot bring it or send it via a friend to a Monday rehearsal then it can be delivered or posted to her home address. If you have any problems returning your music then please contact our Librarian.

Every Choir member must have a WFCS folder to be used during concerts. These are issued to members on receipt of a £5 deposit, which is returnable when the member returns the folder on leaving the Choir. If you are a new member then please see our Librarian to obtain your folder.

On the Grapevine - Patrick Aydon (B) and Kate Amos (A) to tie the knot !

At last they've announced it – they're getting married in the summer! Patrick tells me "We've both been in WFCS for over 20 years (me considerably longer of course!!) and met while singing, of course, on Monday evenings, and more particularly during Three Choirs Festivals. We've now decided that the time is right for us to get married, probably quietly, in June. We bought a house together a couple of years ago now, but no further additions are to be expected, either to the house, or family!!" Congratulations Patrick and Kate from us all at WFCS.

Concert in aid of Worcester Cathedral Music Appeal

Saturday, 29th May 7.30pm

Worcester Cathedral's renowned past and present musicians come together to present a thrilling musical extravaganza including popular works by Bach, Elgar, Lambert, Handel, Parry, Saint Saens and Tomkins. Directed by Adrian Lucas and presented in association with Malvern Theatres, tickets are available on 01684 892277 or book online at www.malvern-theatres.co.uk

Committee Contacts

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