

KENDAL SOUTH CHOIR

Newsletter 14 – September 2017

Welcome back!

The first rehearsal of the 2017/2018 season is on Tuesday 5th September at 7.30pm at Stricklandgate. Please try to be there in good time to pick up scores.

This term we are very pleased to welcome Geoffrey Field as our rehearsal accompanist, and Emma Richardson, who sang with us in the Tarney *Magnificat*, as Assistant Director of Music.

Concerts

A list of diary dates appears on the notice board at rehearsals, but the main points are as follows:

Our own concerts

Our next concerts will be on:

- **Saturday 25th November 2017** – Britten: *Rejoice in the Lamb, A Ceremony of Carols, Festival Te Deum and Jubilate Deo* – at St Thomas's Church
Rehearsal CDs will be available at the beginning of term, but not necessarily at the first rehearsal
- **Saturday 5th May 2018** – Mozart: *Coronation Mass and Solemn Vespers* – again at St Thomas's Church
- **Saturday 24th November 2018** – programme to be decided
- **Saturday 4th May 2019** – programme to be decided

New members would be very welcome in all sections. If you know of anyone who might be interested please have a word with them and ask them to consider joining us.

Cumbria Festival Chorus Events

The next two events are:

- Come & Sing Mozart's *Requiem* on New Year's Eve in Carver Church, Lake Road, Windermere
- A Parry Centenary Concert on Saturday 14th July 2018

Lancaster Priory

There will be a Festival of Song from 10th to 17th September when, among other events, Don's Vox Boys' Choir and a choir from Ripley St Thomas

School will perform concerts. See

<http://lancasterpriory.org/whats-on/concerts/>

Other Events

You can find other local music events on the Westmorland Music Trust's Concert Diary which is now available online at

<http://www.westmorlandmusic.co.uk/concert-diary.html>. This has more information on it than the Bay Anti-Clash List.

Money Matters

French Choral Music Concert

This concert was the first under the baton of Don Gillthorpe and proved a splendid introduction for him. Partly combining with the Vox Boys' Choir it was a great performance well received by the audience and also well reviewed. Helped by two generous donations the loss was restricted to £150 which was well within budget.

Magnificat Concert

Another very successful evening particularly the singing of a very modern work – *Magnificat* by Oliver Tarney who was in the audience and was very pleased with the performance. It was very favourably reviewed. The loss of £1,284 was not much more than half the budget mainly as Oliver had re-orchestrated the work for a smaller orchestra to make it more accessible to smaller choirs.

BBQ

Our thanks again go to Dorothy for hosting yet another successful occasion – thoroughly enjoyed by all attending and producing a healthy £246 profit.

Coffee mornings

Two were held and much enjoyed. A big thank you goes to the helpers. A profit of £420 was made.

Accounts 2016/2017

These show a surplus of £2,151 which is a big improvement on the budgeted deficit of £2,624. Concert losses were only about half those expected mainly due to the reduced size of the orchestra for Tarney's *Magnificat* and because a

grant of £1,000 towards that performance was obtained from the Westmorland Arts Trust through the Cumbria Community Foundation. We had no accompanist for most of the year, and other expenses were saved due to a reduction in the number of rehearsal nights. The Sir John Fisher Foundation generously continued their grant of £1,000 which could not be assumed when budgeting.

The balance at the year-end was a very healthy £9,912. This was expected to be eaten into next year when the budgeted loss on concerts is higher, particularly for the Mozart concert as the *Coronation Mass* is scored for a largish orchestra, and other costs will increase as we have been fortunate in securing an accompanist. But two grants, one for £1,000 and the other a guarantee against loss up to £1,500, have now been obtained towards the Mozart concert which will reduce the forecast deficiency and should leave a balance not much smaller than at present. Other grants are being sought and if successful would improve the position.

Since finances are so robust at present the Committee has decided to revert to the previous practice of having an orchestra for both concerts in 2018/2019.

A copy of the accounts and of the Examiner's report will be on the notice board and you will each get one with the AGM notice.

Subscriptions

The Committee has decided that these can again be unchanged at £80. It is emphasised that continuation at this level still depends on increasing membership and on successful fund raising. You are all asked to do everything you can to support in this way.

Gift Aid

Two reminders. First – to those of you who need to complete a self-assessment tax return, that not all of the subscription counts for gift aid. The amount to be included as gift aid for the tax year 2017/18 is £75, up from the £74 for the tax year 2016/17. Second – to all of you who have completed a gift aid declaration do please remember that you must notify the choir if you change address or if your circumstances change so that you are no longer eligible. This of course

also applies in reverse so that if not being eligible your circumstances change so that you become eligible; the Treasurer needs to know so that you can make the required declaration.

Easy Fundraising

If you shop online please remember to do so through this means so that the choir can receive a donation. This is at no cost to you. Stewart has an information sheet to guide you – it is very easy. And encourage your friends and relations to order this way as well. More than £250 has been raised for the choir in the last five years.

Book (and anything else) stalls

This did extremely well last year producing a record £189. Please continue to bring items for sale not just books though these are very welcome as they can be recycled if returned when read, but anything else such as jams, plants etc – the list is endless.

Black Folders

If your folder has become dilapidated then you can buy a replacement at a cost of only £5.50. Please see Dorothy.

Repertoire

Anyone who has ideas for repertoire for concerts beyond May 2018 should mention it to any member of the Committee for consideration by them and the Director of Music.

Section Reps:

Soprano: Jean Robinson (01539 725955)
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Tenor: David Thomas (015242 74223)
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