

# KENDAL SOUTH CHOIR

## Newsletter 17 – January 2019

The first rehearsal of the new season is on Tuesday 8th January at 7.30pm at Stricklandgate. Please try to be there in good time to pick up scores.

We are delighted that Geoff Field, our accompanist for the last 18 months, has agreed to be our new Director of Music, and has sent this message:

*“Dear Choir Members,*

*“Having successfully managed to hide from the majority of you behind a piano for a year, I am very honoured to have been asked to appear in front of you as your new director. I am very much looking forward to working with you on our next venture, ‘Elijah’, and I hope that you will also enjoy all the other music that we are going to sing over the next few years.*

*“At the first rehearsal I will give out a Rehearsal Schedule for this term. I hope this will help you with your own preparation before rehearsals, as well as knowing what you missed should you happen to be unable to make a rehearsal one week. Just be aware that I might need to revise this after a few weeks, depending on our rate of progress!*

*“As most members will only know me as a pianist, the Committee has asked if I would include some information for you about my musical life so far. I studied organ, piano, composition and choral conducting at the Royal Academy of Music, gaining an honours degree, the Academy's Recital Diploma for organ, two teaching diplomas and eleven prizes in the five years I was there. As a choral director I have experience of both upper voice and four part choirs. My choirs have won the youth sections of BBC and HTV competitions, been semifinalists in Choir of the Year 2000, made TV and radio appearances, recorded five CDs, sung for the Queen and Prince Philip, performed many of the great choral and orchestral masterpieces, and toured in the UK, Austria, Italy, Sweden, Slovakia and Iceland. As an organist I have given recitals in this country and abroad, and accompanied choirs for TV and radio broadcasts, recordings, and cathedral services. For ten years I*

*was also Course Director of the Jennifer Bate Organ Academy; an annual residential course for young female organists.*

*“In 2016 I took early retirement from a 32 year teaching career, during which time I taught at Winchester College, Queenswood, St Mary's, Calne and St Catherine's, Bramley, the latter two being Director of Music posts. As well as teaching KS3, GCSE and A level Music, I also gave (and still teach) individual piano, organ, theory, aural and composition lessons.*

*“I look forward to welcoming you back next Tuesday.*

*“Happy New Year!”*

But this good news leaves us short of a pianist, and we're pleased that Ken Forster will be our main accompanist this term, with Stephen Hitchcock (former member of our bass section), Andy Plowman and possibly others filling in when Ken isn't available.

Rehearsal CDs will not be provided this term because Elijah is not as complicated as some recent repertoire has been, but there are some excellent recordings that you can listen to on YouTube. There is a Thomas Hampson/ Barbara Bonney recording at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LIY8WQ5vLeY> (part 1) and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cf8IOw9NXGw> (part 2), and you can also listen to your own part on ChordPerfect at <https://www.chordperfect.com/felix-mendelssohn/> with a real human voice singing your part, with words.

### Events

A list of diary dates is attached and a copy is on the notice board, and also on our website at <http://www.kendalsouthchoir.org.uk/calendar.html> but the main points are as follows:

### Our own concerts

Our next concerts will be on:

- **Saturday 4th May 2019** – Mendelssohn Elijah

- **Saturday 30th November 2019** – A Night at the Opera
- **Saturday 9th May 2020** – programme to be confirmed

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. As you know, we are particularly desperate for tenors!

#### Cumbria Festival Chorus Events

The next event is a joint concert with the Westmorland Orchestra, when the programme will be the Berlioz *Te Deum* and Mendelssohn's *Symphony No 5*, the "Reformation". Details at <http://www.cumbriafestivalchorus.uk/>

#### Mary Wakefield Festival 2019

This takes place from 23rd to 30th March, with a Choral Celebration Day on Saturday 30th March, in which we will be performing a short programme. Please don't regard participation in this event as an optional extra – we would like to perform as a full choir.

#### Other Events

You can find other local music events on the Westmorland Music Trust's Concert Diary which is available online at <http://www.westmorlandmusic.co.uk/concert-diary.html>.

#### **Money Matters**

##### Rutter and Goodall Concert

The performance went well though to a slightly smaller audience than we have attracted before. However it was a very appreciative crowd. Don was very pleased with the performance and a good reviewer's report was published in the Gazette. All the bills are not yet in but it looks as if the result (before any grants) will be a loss of about £2,600 compared to the budget of £2,420, the difference being mainly reduced ticket sales.

##### Subscriptions

A reminder to those who pay by instalments that the second is due at first rehearsal. Prompt payment would be appreciated.

#### Book etc stall

This continues to do well. Last term raised £76. Please continue to support this, as those organisations that are good enough to support us financially expect that the choir makes a contribution to losses on concerts.

If you bring produce, please put a price label on it, and also be prepared to take it home again if it is unsold.

#### Easy Fund Raising

This is mentioned yet again to encourage all of you (including friends and relatives) who shop online to do it through this site. You pay no more but it produces a donation to the choir from the retailer.

#### Coffee Mornings

The last Coffee Morning raised around £215, and our next one is on Saturday 9th March.

#### **Library Scores**

If for any reason you find you are unable to sing in a concert for which you have borrowed scores from the choir, please make it your responsibility to return them to the Librarian before the concert. The Librarian is Dave Thomas, email [dgt.thomas@gmail.com](mailto:dgt.thomas@gmail.com), telephone 015242 74223. We have to return library copies immediately after concerts, and penalties are incurred for late returns or lost copies.

#### **Section Reps:**

**Soprano:** Jean Robinson (01539 725955)  
Email [jeanrobinson1946@gmail.com](mailto:jeanrobinson1946@gmail.com)

**Alto:** Dorothy Davies (015395 32241)  
Email [dorothydavies@foxrock.co.uk](mailto:dorothydavies@foxrock.co.uk)

**Tenor:** David Thomas (015242 74223)  
Email [dgt.thomas@gmail.com](mailto:dgt.thomas@gmail.com)

**Bass:** Arthur Robinson (01539 725955)  
Email [arthurrobinson48@googlemail.com](mailto:arthurrobinson48@googlemail.com)

A list of Committee members is attached, and there is also a copy on the notice board.

---

[www.kendalsouthchoir.org.uk](http://www.kendalsouthchoir.org.uk)