

KENDAL SOUTH CHOIR

Newsletter 18 – August 2019

The first rehearsal of the new season is on Tuesday 3rd September at 7.30pm at Stricklandgate. Please try to be there in good time to pick up music. We will be using the red Opera Choruses book, so if you have one please bring it with you. We have a supply of them if you haven't got one.

On Saturday 30th November our concert will be A Night at the Opera, with the Encore Opera Group, at the Victoria Hall, Grange-over-Sands. We will be singing some choruses on our own, and other items with Encore. It should be great fun! As some of the pieces will be in Italian or French, pronunciation guides will be produced!

PLEASE NOTE: There will be an EXTRA rehearsal at 7.30pm on Wednesday 27th November at St Mark's Church, Natland, with Encore. This will be the only joint rehearsal with Encore, so please make a diary note now and make every effort to attend. This is in addition to our normal Tuesday rehearsal. There will not be a Friday evening rehearsal on the week of the concert.

The dress for the concert will be as follows:

Ladies: Black trousers or long skirt, solid coloured top – sparkly allowed
Gents: Black trousers, plain coloured open-necked shirt

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 30th November 2019** – A Night at the Opera
- **Saturday 9th May 2020** – *Zimbe!* by Alexander L'Estrange and *Mass in Blue* by Will Todd. For *Mass in Blue* we're very pleased to have Joanna Forbes L'Estrange as the soprano soloist.

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 always need tenors!

All Choirs Quiz

On Friday 18th October Eversley Choir will be hosting a quiz for teams of 4-6 from local choirs, to be held at Priest Hutton & Borwick Memorial Hall, near Carnforth, and we intend to enter a team. If your memory banks are in good working order and you'd like to be on our team, please see Jean. The cost is £12 per person, which includes supper, and a bar will be available.

Cumbria Festival Chorus Events

The next event is the New Year's Eve Come & Sing (Handel's *Coronation Anthems*) at Carver Uniting Church, Windermere.

On 11th July there will be a "Wordsworth 250" concert in Kendal Parish Church when the works will be *Intimations of Immortality* by Finzi and newly commissioned short choral pieces by Roland Fudge and Jonathan Millican.

Future plans include a joint concert with the Westmorland Orchestra on 13th March 2021 to open the 2021 Mary Wakefield Festival, when the main work will be Beethoven's *9th Symphony 'The Choral'* and some shorter pieces.

Details at <http://www.cumbriafestivalchorus.uk/>

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>. If you would like to receive a regular monthly Events list, please contact Jean at jeanrobinson1946@gmail.com.

Money Matters

Elijah Concert

A most successful evening both musically and financially. The loss was £996, which was much less than budgeted. Costs were contained within budget, the audience of 147 was higher than achieved at most previous concerts and we

obtained a grant of £1,000 from the Westmorland Arts Trust through the Cumbria Community Foundation which could not be assumed when budgeting.

Barbecue

Another great occasion thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. And the weather was fine. Helped



by a successful raffle the afternoon contributed a healthy £246 to choir funds. Our thanks go to Dorothy Davies for once again hosting the event and to those members who very kindly provided some of the food.

Book (and anything else) stall

This contributed £116 to choir funds for the year. Not as much as in the previous year, so come on and get reading.

EasyFundraising

When you shop online this produces a donation to the choir from a great number of retailers. This year produced almost £58. But it came from very few shoppers, so the Committee urges all you online shoppers (there must be a lot of you) to go through this system. It is very easy to use – Jean or Stewart has the instructions to help you. And do encourage your friends and relations to help us in this way as well. There is no cost to the

shopper. The donation comes from the companies' charity budgets.

[Amazon has now changed their charity donations to AmazonSmile, and Jean is in the process of registering the choir on that system. More details later.]

Accounts 2018/19

These show a deficiency of £2,063. This was a big improvement on the budgeted £5,174, mainly due to obtaining grants which could not be assumed in advance and a larger audience for the Elijah concert. Unfortunately the Sir John Fisher Foundation which has supported the choir for many years was unable to continue that support as a large increase in applications has caused them to concentrate on their core area of Furness. The choir is most grateful for their previous support. A copy of the accounts and Examiner's report will be put on the notice board and you will each get a copy with the AGM agenda.

Subscriptions 2019/20

For some years subscriptions and other receipts have exceeded non concert payments by something of the order of £1,000 which has helped finance the cost of concerts. This has been a helpful factor in obtaining grants, as our supporters expect that we do something ourselves. However due to rising costs this will no longer be achieved – next year's budget shows no contribution at all. This is a matter of considerable concern and underlines the importance of increasing fund raising efforts. Please support all these. The Committee is also considering what else might be done. Please put on your thinking caps and let a member of Committee have your ideas.

In the light of all this the Committee has decided that subscriptions should be increased by £5 to £90. It is a very modest increase and still leaves no choir contribution towards concerts costs. The Committee feels sure that all members will agree the subscription represents very good value for money – it is less than the cost of a cup of coffee a week. The subscription is for a year's membership but, as a concession to those who find it more convenient, may be paid in two equal instalments, the first due at the beginning of September and

the second at the beginning of the following January.

Gift Aid

Just a reminder that not all of our subscription counts for Gift Aid. For those of you who need to complete a self assessment tax return the amount to be included as Gift Aid for the tax year 2019/20 is £83 (out of the new subscription of £90).

Banking Arrangements

There have been a number of requests for payments to be made by BACS. The Committee has therefore agreed to introduce online banking which will make some payments much easier to make. It will also mean that payments to the choir can be made in this way, including of course subscriptions which some members had already asked about. If you wish to pay online please credit:

Kendal South Choir General Account



and quoting your forename, surname and reference "Sub". Please also send a short email to the Treasurer to say you have paid – stewart.fuller@hotmail.co.uk.

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, 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)
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Bass: Arthur Robinson (01539 725955)
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A list of Committee members is attached, and there is also a copy on the notice board.

www.kendalsouthchoir.org.uk