

KENDAL SOUTH CHOIR

Newsletter 3 – January 2012

The Committee is delighted to announce that **Ian Thompson** has now agreed to take on the permanent post of Kendal South Choir's Director of Music. After an enjoyable term rehearsing *Messiah* with him and a wonderful performance on 10th December, you will have realised what an excellent Director he is proving to be.

Messiah was a great success, both musically and financially – see Stewart's **Money Matters** below – and was enjoyed by audience, soloists and orchestra alike. Caryl would like to thank all those who provided the excellent refreshments, which were also commented on!

Many thanks to Duncan, who provided a very tasty hotpot supper for our **Christmas Social Evening** the following Tuesday, and an equally delicious vegetarian quiche. Moira compiled an interesting quiz, and after a few members had performed their party pieces we had time to sing a few carols to round off the evening.

Fund Raising

At the beginning of December Dorothy, Wendy and Jean manned a "yellow" stall at a **Rainbow Fair** in Grange organised by the Soroptimists. The



number of visitors was disappointing, due to a larger event taking place at the other end of town, but we raised £56 and sold more than 20 quizzes, and

also handed out flyers for *Messiah*, thereby gaining some useful publicity. Thanks to all who provided cakes, biscuits, fudge (oh! the fudge!) and other items for sale.

Quiz sheets are still available – the closing date for entries is 20th January, so we need a final push before that date – please take some and sell them to friends and neighbours so that we can make as much profit as possible for funds.

Next term, as you know, we are singing **Brahms's German Requiem**, in English. Because of differences between the various translations into English and the musical scansion, we are singing **only** from the edition borrowed from the Library. This is the Novello edition, edited by John E West, and bears the words "The English version adapted from the Holy Scriptures by Ivor Atkins". The number 17147 appears at the bottom of the pages. If you have your own copy of this edition you may use it, but unfortunately if you have bought a new copy, which has a different translation, you will not be able to use that. The Committee apologises for this, but the problem only came to light when the library copy and the new version were compared.

It costs around £1.50 per copy to hire the scores – if you feel able to pay for the hire of your own copy this would be much appreciated.

We will need to work really hard this term in order to give a first-rate performance of this solid work, which is around 70 minutes long and has very few solo sections in which the choir can recover its breath.

To achieve this, members are strongly advised to practise at home as much as possible, by whatever method they prefer. You may find the part rehearsal website www.cyberbass.org useful (you may have to **Ctrl+Click** to follow the link) – click on Major Works (middle of the screen), then scroll down to Johannes Brahms, Requiem. You can then listen to either just your own part or to the full harmony. If you would like to listen to it in your car or at home and haven't a CD, Jean have a recording sung in English by the Mormon Tabernacle Choir.

In addition to the Brahms the concert will include some opera choruses. *If you have a copy of OUP Opera Choruses, please bring it to rehearsals.*

Our soloists will be Laurie Ashworth (soprano) (www.laurieashworth.co.uk) and David Rees-Jones (bass). David doesn't have a website, but he is based in Settle and sang the bass solo in the "bring & sing" Mozart Requiem at the Mary

Wakefield Festival in 2011. Ian Pattinson will be playing the organ.

All members must attend as many rehearsals as they possibly can, or they will only be allowed to sing in the concert at Ian's discretion.

If you are unable to attend for any reason, please let your Section Rep know, or, if you know in advance, mark the register with an A for that date. The Section Reps are:

Soprano: Jean Robinson (01539 725955)

Alto: Lara Clahane (01539 737090)

Tenor: Moira Greenhalgh (01524 761269)

Bass: Arthur Robinson (01539 725955)

Because it is Ian's custom to conduct warm-up exercises and voice training at 7.30pm prompt, it is vital that everyone is in their seats and ready to start by that time. Late arrivals cause disruption, particularly when they have to walk across the front or find their place in their row. For the same reason, chatter should be avoided during rehearsal. The half-time break is of 10 minutes' duration, including any announcements.

A problem which is going to arise in the near future is the **extension of car parking charges** into the evening after 6pm with effect from April 2012. This means that parking on any SLDC car park will now cost £3.20 for an evening session. This will have an effect not just on us, but on members of all clubs and societies which meet in premises in Kendal during the evening.

This is due to take effect in April, but Kendal Town Council intends to object to it, and so should we, both as a Choir and as individuals. It is therefore vital that we make our feelings known to SLDC, which meets on 18th January. A sample letter is attached which you can print, sign and send to your own councillor. Better still, personalise the letter by changing it here and there and adding bits of your own, or write one yourself!

We may need to look for a **new rehearsal venue**. If anyone knows of a village hall, or something similar, with plenty of parking, please let one of the Committee know. Levens Choir, for instance, meet at St Patrick's Primary School, Endmoor, but of course their rehearsal night is the same as ours.

On the notice board you will find details of a **Singing Day with John Rutter**, to be held in Kendal Parish Church on Saturday 25th February from 11am-5pm. The cost is £15 per singer.

The Committee will be meeting in the third week of January to discuss **future concerts**. If you have any suggestions regarding repertoire, please speak to Ian, Moira or Dorothy or any other Committee member this Tuesday or next.

Money Matters

Messiah : Not only a great musical success but a satisfactory financial outcome too. Expenditure came in below budget and a good audience of some 250 kept the loss to just under £800. Audience numbers were partly a reflection of some good publicity, but also, and perhaps even more importantly, of excellent advance ticket sales by choir members.

Party: Another very successful event enjoyed by all and which made a profit of £152.

Subscriptions: A reminder to those who are paying by instalments that the balance is due at the first rehearsal in January. Prompt payment would be appreciated.

Gift Aid: A reminder to those members who need to include their subscription in their 2011/12 self assessment tax return which will arrive in April that, as explained last September, the amount to include is not the full amount of £65 but the reduced amount of £59.

Diary Dates

Attached is a list of dates for the next year, some of which are still provisional.

There will be no *February* half-term break.

New Members

Finally, as you will be very much aware, we are short of basses and tenors! If you know of anyone who is interested please have a word with them and try to get them to join us. Sopranos and altos are in plentiful supply, so prospective new members in these parts may have to go on a waiting list.

All the best, and good singing!