

# KENDAL SOUTH CHOIR

Newsletter 5 – January 2013

A very happy New Year to you all!

A reminder that rehearsals begin again on Tuesday 8th January in the Kirkland Hall.

The main work for our concert on **Saturday 13th April** is Rossini's *Petite Messe Solennelle*, and copies will be available to borrow. Please also bring with you the book of Opera Choruses. Choir copies are available if you don't have your own.

## Baroquefest concert

Ian says:

"Our Baroquefest at St Thomas' on 8th December was a resounding success, enjoyed alike by both choir and audience. Of course, nothing is ever perfect and I came away with questions in my mind about some aspects of both the programme and the performance.

"The programme proved unexpectedly difficult in rehearsal, perhaps because of too many different styles; most problematic were the 2 Purcell pieces, both consisting of many short sections needing careful continuity to avoid a series of stops and starts. Unfortunately, in spite of my best efforts, there were still a number of hesitant entries in the concert and the overall impression left me dissatisfied. Music perhaps best left to specialists or cathedral choirs (*mea culpa*).

"By contrast, the Handel anthems came across with great enthusiasm and fine tone quality, with good singing from all sections – accurate, precise, rhythmic and when needed very expressive. The single blot on the landscape was the silly mistake (in Zadok) from a soprano, this in spite of considerable repetition in rehearsal; I would request that if this sort of thing happens again an immediate apology after the concert would seem appropriate.

"Congratulations to the person who suggested the Pergolesi (or Durante), a splendid piece previously unknown to me, which again showed the choir at its best. Perhaps we should explore more of his (or similar) compositions – tuneful, eminently singable and of great 'audience appeal'.

"Both modern works, the Britten and Philip Wood came off extremely well and amply repaid the considerable time spent in rehearsal. Intonation was excellent and the difficult sustained notes in the Wood were achieved with distinction.

"A great thank you to our well matched team of soloists; it is always a risk throwing together a disparate group of singers on a single rehearsal and I was more than pleased with their corporate contribution. I should also mention Stella's exemplary trumpeting in the Bach.

"I have to say that the audience was disappointingly small for a concert of this scale; the unfortunate clash with the Parish Church must be partly to blame, but if we are to be able to continue to present concerts with soloist and orchestra, I do feel that the membership needs to be more pro-active in selling tickets (2 per head should not be too much to ask).

"Lastly I need to appeal to all members to try to give priority to our Tuesday practices; there have been far too many rehearsals with a disappointingly small turnout. We must pull together if we are to achieve excellence and it is disrespectful to both the faithful regulars and to myself if singers are absent without valid reason. I realise that I have standards that are realistically unattainable (!), but I am gradually becoming aware of what is possible and we can reach a much higher level of attainment if we have commitment from each individual member.

"I hope you will all take note of these comments and set about the Rossini Mass with renewed energy and enthusiasm (it will need both in abundance!). We also have the Mary Wakefield coming up, so please maximum possible attendance during the coming term.

"Happy New Year  
Ian T."

You can read the Westmorland Gazette review of the concert on our website.

## Money Matters

### Baroquefest

The loss on the concert was £1,896 which was within our budget figure. Although the audience was just below our budgeted 100, actual ticket sales were more than this. The result was helped by a generous donation towards music costs.

### Christmas Party

A great evening, which raised £164.

### Subscriptions

A reminder to those paying by instalments that the balance is due at the next rehearsal.

## Mary Wakefield Festival

### Choral Celebration Evening, Wednesday 13th March, 7pm, Kendal Parish Church

We will be singing four or five pieces:

- *Hymn to the Virgin*
- *Bobby Shafto* (folk song arrangement)
- *Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves* from *Nabucco*
- *Exceeding glad shall he be* (and possibly *Allelujah*) from *The King shall rejoice*

It was originally intended to sing *Zadok the Priest*, but in view of the success of *The King shall rejoice* at the Baroquefest concert it has been decided to include one or two pieces from that instead.

### Adjudicated Classes, Monday 11th March (evening)

As mentioned in the notes sent to you at the beginning of December, we would like to enter a group of 10-15 singers in the Specialist Madrigal class, and Jean Robinson is looking for volunteers. So far she has five, including herself! Please see her if you would like to take part – failing that, she will be targeting specific members, and reserves the right to select a balanced group.

### Future Concerts

On **7th December** we will have a guest slot at Westmorland Orchestra's concert at the Leisure Centre.

On **25th January 2014** we will perform our own New Year Concert at St Thomas's Church, which will comprise Fauré's *Requiem* and other items yet to be finalised.

Our Spring Concert on **10th May 2014** will be held in Kendal Parish Church.

Please make rehearsals your priority for Tuesday evenings and attend as many as you possibly can. If you are unable to attend for any reason, please let your Section Rep know, or, if you know well 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)

Do your very best to be on time for weekly rehearsals – one or two members are frequently late, which causes disruption, particularly when they have to walk across the front or find their places in their row. Please avoid chatter during rehearsal – the time for this is during the half-time break.

### Summer Barbecue

Our Family Summer Barbecue takes place this year on Sunday 30th June from 3.30pm onwards at Arthur and Jean Robinson's home, Over Bleaze, Old Hutton LA8 0LU. Last year's event was most enjoyable and a financial success. More details nearer the time.

### Fund Raising

The book-and-everything-else-stall has raised nearly £135 since September. Thanks to everyone for buying books, cakes, etc., and for providing more!

The November Coffee Morning raised around £220, thanks to a magnificent array of cakes. We have two coffee mornings booked this year – Saturday 23rd March and Friday 22nd November.

The Choir is registered with the Easy Fundraising website. If you shop online the Choir can benefit from a donation from the retailer of around 2.5 to 5% of your spend, at no cost to the Choir or yourself. The retailer makes the donation from savings made by being an online presence and having no overheads. To raise funds when shopping online, go to [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) and register as a supporter, with Kendal South Choir as your chosen charity. Then go to the retailer **via the Easy Fundraising website**, as this

records your transaction, and the retailer will automatically donate a percentage of your spend to the Choir.

Four members have raised £20 between them – not a huge amount, but every little helps!

### **Diary Dates**

Also accompanying this newsletter is a list of dates for the next few terms.

### **New Members**

are welcome in the tenor and bass sections. If you know of anyone who is interested please have a word with them and try to get them to join us.

### **More Music**

#### **More opportunities to sing!**

#### **Sunday 10th March 2013, afternoon**

Mary Wakefield Festival “Come and Sing” in Kendal Parish Church – Purcell *Come, Ye Sons of Art* and Britten *Rejoice in the Lamb*.

#### **Saturday 16th March 2013, 7.30pm**

Mary Wakefield Festival, final Festival Concert in Kendal Parish Church – Mozart *Mass in C minor* and Britten *Cantata Misericordium*. You can still sign up for this event, but it must be soon. A registration form is attached.

#### **Saturday 28th September 2013, 10am-5.45pm**

CCI Choral Day in St Thomas’s Church, Kendal – Will Todd’s *Mass in Blue* – with Will Todd and Ralph Woodward. Cost for the day £20 – application form available from the CCI website shortly.

#### **Saturday 19th October**

Come and Sing Verdi’s *Requiem* in Cartmel Priory with Levens Choir.

#### **New Year’s Eve**

CCI “Come and Sing” in Cartmel Priory. A wonderful and worthwhile way to spend New Year’s Eve!

#### **Saturday 8th November 2014**

CCI event – Britten *War Requiem* in Kendal Parish Church.

### **Concerts**

**Sunday 17th February, 2pm:** Levens Choir, Ings Church, as part of their series “Music in Quiet Places”.

**Saturday 20th April, 7.30pm:** Staveley Choral Society, Carl Orff’s *Carmina Burana*, The Lakes School, Windermere.

**Sunday 21st April, 2pm:** Levens Choir, Music in Quiet Places – venue to be decided.

**Saturday 28th April, 7.30pm:** Eversley Choir, Mendelssohn’s *Elijah*, Dallam School, Milnthorpe.

**Saturday 4th May, 7.30pm:** Ambleside & District Choral Society, Handel’s *Judas Maccabæus*, Ambleside Parish Church.

**Saturday 18th May, 7.30pm:** Ulverston Choral Society, Dvořák’s *Mass in D Major*, St Mary’s Parish Church, Ulverston.

**Saturday 1st June, 7.30pm:** Arnside Choral Society, Fauré’s *Requiem* and Paul Carr’s *Requiem for an Angel*, Arnside Methodist Church.

**Saturday 6th July, 7.30pm:** Levens Choir, Bach’s *B Minor Mass*, Kendal Parish Church.

**Saturday 13th July, 7.30pm:** Levens Choir, Bach’s *B Minor Mass*, Lancaster Cathedral.

Finally, the Choir’s Committee meets on the morning of Wednesday 16th January. If you have any matters you wish to raise, please contact your Section Rep (listed above).

Here’s looking forward to some good singing in 2013!

<http://kendalsouthchoir.btck.co.uk>