

# KENDAL SOUTH CHOIR

Newsletter 6 – May 2013

## Ian's report on the term

"Well, we certainly managed to send people away happy at the end of the Mary Wakefield Choral Evening and garnered some very complimentary words from the 'adjudicator' Michael Hancock. The evening was dragging somewhat towards the end, with certain other choirs presenting over-long selections, so that by the time our own turn came it was about 2 hours after the warm-up! However, we rose to the occasion, raised the temperature and acquitted ourselves with distinction.

"After the Mary Wakefield, time was threatening to run out for preparations of Rossini's Petite Messe and your DoM was forced on many occasions to resort to all manner of shouting, yelling, cajoling and head-banging, but we got there in the end and again sent the audience away happy, even wanting more. This latter may well have been the result of the theatrical antics of our excellent soloists in the second part, which I was unfortunately unable to witness, having chosen to join in the accompanying!

"The Petite Messe itself was most satisfactory; there were occasional retreats, especially by the sopranos, into their 'comfort zone/default setting', but the bass section, with the help of some guests, was splendid and most even seemed to be able to look up from time to time! We did not quite reach the level I was aiming for, largely due to allowing the necessary rehearsal time for the Mary Wakefield, but I was very pleased with our progress in terms of tone quality, enunciation and dynamic range, all commented on in Anice Paterson's excellent review [which you can read in full on our website]. In particular the two great fugues produced a wonderful spirit and a superb full sound at the climaxes. Some people owned up to mistakes (commendable habit) but they were not noticed at the front. The sopranos distinguished themselves with some lovely legato singing in the Sanctus, and the hushed tone of the Christe was exemplary, even if the pitch did imperceptibly drop. We were treated to some superb singing from our soloists, with Emma, perhaps being the pick of the bunch with her heartfelt Agnus Dei.

"I think that by now my aims will have become evident – improved vowels, a tone quality that has more height (ping) and depth and lots of 'light and shade', something I learnt from my first piano teacher.

"We still urgently need to recruit some tenors and basses, especially the latter and I would urge the membership to encourage any likely friends, neighbours or relations to come along and give it a go. Try to explain the pleasure and fulfilment that come from actively doing something well, being part of a team and striving towards a goal."

Ian T.

## New Venue

For reasons with which you are aware, it has been necessary to find a new venue for our Tuesday rehearsals, and the Committee has investigated 20 or so churches, schools and other buildings, many of which for one reason or another – expense, convenience, etc. – were considered to be unsuitable.

We have decided upon Stricklandgate Methodist Church, with which many of you will be familiar, and we will be rehearsing there, in the church itself, from Tuesday 3rd September. Please use the side door on Union Street and sign in in the foyer. The door into the church is ahead of you to the right. (Be aware that another group is meeting in the hall.) Free parking is available at County Hall, either on the smaller car park in front or on the large car park behind.

## Rinteln Trip

As we mentioned a few weeks ago, we are trying to arrange a visit to Kendal's twin town Rinteln next year, and the proposed dates are 14th to 19th May. We hope to be able to perform a concert there with one of the local choirs, the Oratorienchor.

We would travel by coach to Hull, taking the overnight North Sea Ferry to Rotterdam, and thence to Rinteln, staying for three nights on a bed and breakfast basis at the Hotel Stadt Kassel, where discounted rates are available to twinning exchange parties. The cost would be around £350 per person inclusive, although the cost would be reduced to around £220 (coach/ferry only) for anyone who wanted to arrange accommodation with a host family.

Please pencil the dates in your diary, and let Wendy know by 23rd May at the latest if you wish to be included. Once details are firmed up, we will be asking for a small deposit of £50 per person to secure places for yourself and any guests. Wendy

can be contacted on 015395 38837 or [wmcourrie@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:wmcourrie@tiscali.co.uk).

### Money Matters

#### Rossini

A paying audience of only 91 was disappointing, but we were blessed with some generous donations and kept the loss to about £1,500 which was not much more than budget. So this can be regarded a financial success as well as a musical one.

#### Accounts 2012/2013

We budgeted for a deficiency this year to use up last year's surplus, but it now looks as if the result may be closer to breakeven especially if an application for grant is successful. The improvement is largely due to good fund raising, new members' subscriptions, donations and gift aid. So the surplus is now planned to be used up next year. You will each get a copy of the accounts with the AGM papers and in the meantime a copy will go on the board at the first rehearsal.

#### Subscriptions

The additional cost of the new rehearsal room will be high at £448 a year. To enable our future concerts to continue to be of a high standard with good soloists and musicians, the Committee has decided to increase subscriptions by a modest amount of £5 to help meet the additional rehearsal room costs. You will surely agree that a subscription of £80 represents exceptionally good value for money for all the pleasure that it gives in rehearsing and producing performances that receive very favourable critiques. For those who find it easier to pay by instalments the first £40 will be due at the beginning of the September term and the balance of £40 at the first rehearsal in January.

#### Gift Aid

For those of you who need to complete a self assessment tax return the amount of subscription to include as a gift aid payment for the tax year 2013/14 is £74.

#### Future Concerts

On **7th December** we will have a guest slot at Westmorland Orchestra's concert at the Leisure Centre, when we will sing *Toward the Unknown Region* by Vaughan Williams. (Ian will conduct this part of the concert.)

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 French music.

[Anyone who would like to buy their own copy of the Vaughan Williams or the Fauré – we will be using the Novello edition of the Fauré – should contact Moira by the end of July on 01524 761269 or by email at [moira@m-greenhalgh.co.uk](mailto:moira@m-greenhalgh.co.uk).]

Our Spring Concert on **10th May 2014** will be held again in St Thomas's Church, when we will sing Haydn's *Nelson Mass* and some baroque items.

We hope to perform *Messiah* once again on **Saturday 6th December 2014**, 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:** Dorothy Davies (015395 32241)
- **Tenor:** Moira Greenhalgh (01524 761269)
- **Bass:** Arthur Robinson (01539 725955)

#### Summer Barbecue

Our Family Summer Barbecue takes place this year on Sunday 30th June from 3.30pm onwards at Arthur and Jean's home, Over Bleaze, Old Hutton LA8 0LU (just off the B6254). Tickets are £7.50 (£3.50 for children), available from Jean on 01539 725955 or [jeanrobinson1946@gmail.com](mailto:jeanrobinson1946@gmail.com). Please let her know if you need a vegetarian option.

There will be a farm walk (weather permitting), but there is plenty of room indoors for the barbecue itself whatever the weather!

#### Fund Raising

The book-and-everything-else-stall has raised £200 this session. Thanks to everyone for buying books, cakes, etc. – please save up your holiday reading and bring it in September for the stall.

The March Coffee Morning raised around £180, not as much as the November event, but it was a very cold day! Our next coffee morning is on Friday 22nd November.

Don't forget, when you shop online, to go to your chosen retailer via the Easy Fundraising site ([www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)) (you will need to register there as a supporter of Kendal South Choir) so that the choir will benefit from a donation from

the retailer of up to 5% of your spend, at no cost to the Choir or yourself.

Four members have raised more than £30 between them.

#### **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 ask them to consider joining us. (See Ian's comments above.)

#### **Committee**

The AGM takes place on Tuesday 1st October, when the Committee for the coming year will be elected. Please consider carefully whether you would be willing to join the Committee in some capacity. New ideas and skills are always welcome!

#### **More Music**

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

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 himself and Ralph Woodward. The cost for the day is £20 – an application form is attached.

Saturday 19th October – all day  
Come and Sing Verdi's *Requiem* in Cartmel Priory with Levens Choir. More details later.

New Year's Eve  
CCI "Come and Sing", this year at St Martin's Church, Bowness-on-Windermere. A worthwhile and uplifting way to spend New Year's Eve!

Saturday 8th November 2014  
CCI event – Britten *War Requiem* in Kendal Parish Church.

#### **Concerts**

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 8th June, 8.00pm: Pro Nobis Singers, "Benjamin Britten: Before and After" at Lancaster Cathedral

Saturday 15th June, 7.30pm: Pro Nobis Singers, "Midsummer Music: Sacred and Secular" at Crosthwaite Parish Church, Keswick

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

Have a look at our new website:  
<http://www.kendalsouthchoir.org.uk>