

# KENDAL SOUTH CHOIR

Newsletter 8 – June 2014

## Ian's report on the Haydn concert

The good news, from a conductor's perspective, is that we have at last been able to sing a concert without bringing in reinforcements. Our tenors and basses, placed well forward, more than held their own, also producing some lovely quiet tone when required.

From all points of view (save one\*) this was a magnificent concert and congratulations have been received from some notable sources. One particular comment was that the sopranos excelled themselves, not a hint of flatness and the higher passages attacked with confidence and with apparent notes to spare. This surely represents fulfilment of one of my aims this past couple of years.

And what (you may say) about the altos? The fact that I have not thus far mentioned them can be taken as a compliment. They were their usual, always reliable, selves – what I think of as the engine room, holding everything else together (if that is not mixing metaphors).

A fine quartet of soloists, perhaps dominated by the more ample voices of Jacqueline and Ian, sang with uniform musicality and sensitivity and, not without a good deal of cajoling, the ensemble produced a fine range of energy and sonority.

Our audience was most generous with its applause, but we do need to continue working and building numbers\* if we are to be able to present concerts on this scale.

All in all an exhausting but infinitely worthwhile evening.  
Ian Thompson 22 May 2014

The Gazette reviewer (our own Christine Moore) said:

"Those unable to attend Kendal South's latest offering, i.e. Haydn's Nelson Mass, missed a treat."

"Under the directorship of Ian Thompson, the choir continue to maintain their growing reputation."

"A rousing start to the concert with Haydn's Te Deum in C, was again ably supported by the Lonsdale Baroque Ensemble under the direction of its accomplished leader, Julian Cann, with the sound musicianship of Hugh Davies as organist."

"This was followed by Handel's Organ Concerto in B flat Op 4 No 2 and was, surprisingly, played by Ian Thompson and not Hugh Davies. One would have thought Ian would have enough to contend with in

managing the choir, orchestra and soloists, but I guess that is a measure of the man.

"The last item before the interval was Haydn's Salve Regina in G showing some sensitive singing by a well-balanced solo quartet."

## Future Concerts

### *Verdi Requiem*

The performance will be at the Sands Centre, Carlisle, on Saturday 12th July, to be conducted by Ian Thompson. Ian pleads for full commitment to rehearsals, as there is a lot to learn, even for those members who have sung the work before.

Our own remaining rehearsals will be on Tuesday 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th June and 1st July (no rehearsal on 8th July), and the joint rehearsals will be on Saturday 7th and 21st June at Keswick School, and on Saturday 5th July at Eaglesfield Paddle Primary School, near Cockermouth.

Tickets at the discounted price of £18 will be available at rehearsals until Tuesday 17th June – after that date tickets may only be bought from the Sands Centre at the full price of £20. Please order your tickets from your Section Rep (names below) as soon as you can.

### *Our own concerts*

Our performance of *Messiah* will be on **13th December**, in St Thomas's Church, Kendal. We will be singing from the Watkins Shaw edition. Please try to use only this edition in order to avoid wasting time spent in making amendments.

We will be taking part in the Mary Wakefield Festival Choral Celebration on **Saturday 21st March 2015**. The format is different this year, with morning and afternoon sessions rather than an evening, and hopefully more – and different – choirs taking part.

The Festival Concert which has in the past taken place on the last Saturday of Festival Week will instead take place on **Sunday 12th July** in Kendal Parish Church, when Ian Jones will conduct the Festival Chorus in Dvořák's *Stabat Mater*.

Our own first concert of 2015 will be on **Saturday 25th April** at Stricklandgate Methodist Church, the programme for which is still under discussion. The Committee hopes to book another venue to repeat (or pre-repeat!) the concert the previous or following week.

Because of the overabundance of concerts around Christmas time, the Committee is proposing to plan a November concert in 2015 followed by one in January 2016, and this will be brought to the AGM.

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, let Moira or your Section Rep (see below) know, or, if you know in advance, mark the register with an "A" for that date.

For security reasons the Union Street door at Stricklandgate Methodist Church has to be locked at 7.30pm, so if you know you are going to be late please arrange to text a friend in the choir when you arrive.

**New Members** are always 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.

### **Social Matters**

#### **Summer Barbecue**

The Summer Barbecue will take place on Sunday 6th July at the home of Dorothy and Michael Davies, Fox Rock, Allithwaite Road, Grange-over-Sands LA12 7EN, starting at around 4.30pm and continuing until it finishes! Lawn games such as croquet, bowls, etc. will be played on the sloping lawn.

Tickets price £7.50 (£3.50 for children) will be on sale soon. Don't let possible wet weather put you off – there is room indoors for all!

#### **Rinteln Trip**

This has had to be cancelled, because of our inability to recruit enough members to form a balanced choir. Instead the Committee is looking at other more local venues for a repeat of the Spring 2015 concert.

### **Money Matters**

#### **Concerts**

The Faure was a great success musically, and we were blessed with a good sized audience which meant that a small profit of £155 was made.

The Haydn was also very successful, but a smaller audience led to a loss of £2,557. However this was a bit less than forecast, as expenditure was kept within budget and donations exceeded expectations.

#### **Fundraising**

Fun was had by all at the recent coffee morning, and together the two mornings this year made a profit of £358. A very big thank you goes to all the helpers.

We all enjoyed the late-Christmas Party which produced £155. Our thanks go to Duncan for his sterling work in the kitchen.

The Bookstall has produced £130 so far with a bit more to come.

Please do not forget that if you buy anything online you should go to [www.eeasyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.eeasyfundraising.org.uk) and register as a supporter of Kendal South Choir. Then go to the retailer via the Easy Fundraising site. This will produce a donation to the choir from the retailer at no cost to you. Since registering two years ago the Choir has received donations of some £57, so it is well worth while.

#### **Accounts 2013/4**

Once again we have done better than expected, and although a small deficit looks likely, it is not as big as budgeted. The additional cost of the Verdi rehearsals has been more than offset by the better result of the Fauré concert and a successful grant application. So the surplus of two years ago is now planned to be used up next year. You will each get a copy of the accounts with the AGM papers.

#### **Subscriptions**

After careful thought the Committee has decided that there need be no increase in subscriptions for next year, so they will remain at £80 payable at the beginning of the September term. This is possible largely because of the success of fund raising efforts, so it is vital that you continue to give them your full support. The fact that we can be seen to be doing all we can to offset losses on concerts, is also a big help in any grant application. For those of you who find it easier to pay by instalments the first £40 will be due in September and the balance of £40 at the first rehearsal in January.

#### **Gift Aid**

Not all of our subscription is eligible for gift aid. For those of you who need to complete a self assessment tax return the amount to be included as gift aid payment for the 2014/15 tax year is £74.

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#### Section Reps:

- **Soprano:** Jean Robinson (01539 725955)
  - **Alto:** Dorothy Davies (015395 32241)
  - **Tenor:** Moira Greenhalgh (01524 761269)
  - **Bass:** Arthur Robinson (01539 725955)
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The first rehearsal after the summer break will be on **Tuesday 9th September**.

<http://www.kendalsouthchoir.org.uk>