

Newsletter

From the Chair ...

The beginning of the Summer term also means the last term for me as Chair of the Waltham Singers. As I said at the last AGM, I will not be available for re election in September, although I will stay on the committee and give any assistance needed to my successor. We will also need a new secretary and a new treasurer – although this may initially just be for one year. The current committee has been working well together as a team, with members taking on as many responsibilities as they feel they can manage.

If we continue to share the work as we have been, nobody should be worried that by coming forward to take over one of the posts they are taking on too much. We are very happy that Anne Dore Beaton will be taking over from Libby as our new librarian, and I hope other people follow her example and volunteer to fill one of the other positions in September. Please come and talk to me or one of the other committee members if you might be available.

You may remember that we asked our audience at the Brahms concert to fill in a short questionnaire. On the night, we had an audience of just under 300, and we had replies from 200 people. Most of our audience (169) were either family or friends of singers, while 31 had no connection with the choir. 13 knew about the Waltham Singers by word of mouth, while 13 attended the concert as a result of our various forms of advertising. 13 people had never been to one of our concerts before. The result is broadly what we expected and underlines again how important it is that all choir members sell as many tickets as possible. Many people also took the opportunity to leave general comments, some of which you can read below.

Always very enjoyable!; Every concert is enjoyed; All evenings are most enjoyable; I'm never disappointed; We always enjoy the excellent singing; Looking forward to a great evening; Always excellent and such a high standard; Always a memorable evening; Your Purcell evening was excellent; Always great performances and interesting choice of music and excellent orchestra/soloists with choir.

Apart from Michael Gray's review in the Chelmsford Weekly News, several people commented either verbally or in writing on the performance. A couple who had first heard the choir at last year's MacMillan carol service wrote: *What a great evening! The Beethoven was, as ever, a joy. But the highlight for us was Brahms Ein Deutsches Requiem. I doubt if the Cathedral has resonated to such sound for many a long year. It was tremendous - very moving and uplifting. A credit to all the performers. If you're able, please pass on our congratulations to everyone involved. The orchestra and choir have established a high benchmark for performance of this sort of work. We look forward to future concerts.* Another letter arrived a few days later: *I am writing to say how much we enjoyed Saturday's concert. Everyone was in sparkling form. It was great to hear Beethoven's Fifth Symphony performed 'live'. The music is so vibrant and the orchestra produced a most wonderful sound. The Brahms Requiem was great, I loved being able to follow the German text as well as to read the information in the programme which I thought very interesting. Please pass on my thanks and appreciation to Andrew Fardell and the Waltham Singers.*

WARDROBE WIZARDRY!

Thursday 1 July 2010

7.30pm @ The Barn, New Hall School
£10 - All proceeds to Choir Funds!

Get rid of the demons in your wardrobe! Learn how to put outfits together and use accessories. Be in fashion heaven not hell! An Image First workshop for Waltham Singers with Paula Cornwell. Tickets available at rehearsals or call Paula on 01245 477297.



50-50 CLUB WINNERS...

The winners this time were:

£50 Christine Eason; £30 Ros Brian; £25 John Clark; £20 Janice Wilson; £20 Julie Warner; £15 Denise Law.

To make sure you've got all the numbers you want contact Mike Wall or complete one of the forms, which are available by the notice board every Thursday night.

Recital 15th May, St John's Church Moulsham Street, 7.30pm

We are still looking for volunteers to join the list of our performers for this year's Hidden Talent Recital in aid of Waltham Singers funds. We're not looking for perfection, just for lots of enthusiasm and fun! If you would like to sing or play an instrument, on your own or in a group, please get in touch with Teresa Downs urgently. If you are not playing or singing, please do come and support your colleagues. Tickets are £5 (students £2.50). Refreshments will be available in the interval.

Brilliant Brahms ...



Powerful union of Beethoven with Brahms

BRAHMS AND BEETHOVEN, Waltham Singers with the Salomon Orchestra in Chelmsford Cathedral

THE Waltham Singers filled the Cathedral with a winning combination of Beethoven and Brahms.

Ein Deutsches Requiem was profoundly moving and powerfully performed here in the original German version.

It began with a beautifully sustained "Selig" chord from the choir; an effect echoed an hour later in the "Sterben" of the final movement.

Bold phrasing, and a quiet clarity, were hallmarks of Andrew Fardell's interpretation. I was impressed by the

ending of the third part, the urgent tread of the fourth, and the energy of the sixth.

The soloists were the baritone David Stout, especially effective in suggesting our apprehension of death, and soprano Stefanie Kembal-Reid. I thought her voice had a little too much edge for this acoustic, but she did soar thrillingly in the fifth part.

The crucial orchestral accompaniment was provided by the Salomon Orchestra.

The introduction to the second part, and the brass and percussion in the sixth, just two examples of many where the sensitive playing enhanced the work of the choir: **MICHAEL GRAY**

Dates for your Diary...

Summer Term 2010			
Sunday 13 th June	2.00pm-4.00pm	Gt Waltham Church	Rehearsal
Saturday 19 th June	1.00pm-4.00pm	Gt Waltham Church	Rehearsal
Saturday 19 th June	8.00pm	Gt Waltham Church	Concert - <i>Armstrong-Gibbs</i>
Thursday 24 th June	8.00pm	St Cedd's School	Annual Review Meeting
Sunday 27 th June	TBC	Foxtons	Choir BBQ
Thursday 1 st July	7.00pm	The Barn, New Hall	Wardrobe Wizardry
Autumn Term 2010			
Thursday 2 nd September	8.00pm-10.00pm	St Cedd's School	Open Rehearsal
Sunday 14 th November	2.00pm-4.00pm	Gt Waltham Church	Rehearsal
Saturday 20 th November	1.00pm-4.00pm	Gt Waltham Church	Rehearsal
Saturday 20 th November	7.30pm	Gt Waltham Church	Concert
Thursday 25 th November	8.00pm	St Cedd's School	Macmillan Rehearsal
Wednesday 1 st December	7.30pm	Chelmsford Cathedral	Macmillan Carol Service
Future Concert Dates			
Saturday 19 th March 2011		Chelmsford Cathedral	<i>Messiah</i> - Handel
Saturday 18 th June 2011		Gt Waltham Church	TBC