

Waltham Singers newsletter

Issue No 57
April 2015

From the Chair...

Welcome to the April 2015 newsletter. I hope you are enjoying the Easter break.

The echoes of four natural trumpets are still dying away in the memory of last term's concert. The brilliance of Zelenka's writing combined with the stately measure of Biber's Requiem made our March concert one to remember. Once again I congratulate those who sang solos. Despite the weeks leading up to the concert contriving to be the peak of the 2015 season for colds, coughs and sore throats, there were some very good performances entirely in keeping with practice of the time when soloists would very much have come from the choir.

2015's activities got underway earlier in the term at the end of January with another enjoyable Quiz Night. We must thank Mike Wall for overseeing the arrangements and also for reprising his role as Quizmaster. It was a thoroughly entertaining evening, whilst raising a very helpful £686 contribution to choir funds.

This term's Summer Concert on 20th June 2015 is entitled "A Sense of Place", with all of the music having a resonance of a specific location: Elgar's *From the Bavarian Highlands*, Chilcott's *Songs and Cries of London Town*, Maxwell Davies' *The Kestrel Road* and a new composition by Jeffery Wilson, *Songs of Home*. We have our usual party after the concert in the Hulton Hall, to which all of the choir and audience are invited.

The final event of the season before our summer break is our Annual General Meeting on Thursday, 25th June from 8 pm to 10 pm in the hall at St Cedd's School. This is an opportunity for all of us in the choir to review the season's activities as we receive reports from the Chair, Musical Director and Treasurer and elect a new committee to serve for the 2015-2016 season. Please do make sure the date is in your diary. It is important that we hear members' views and suggestions to inform plans for the future. Do also consider whether you could help with the running of the choir by joining the committee: it is important that we have a wide range of opinion represented.

Looking ahead, we start again after the summer break with our Open Rehearsal on Thursday, 3rd September at St Cedd's from 8.00 to 10.00 pm as usual. Our concert on 21st November in Chelmsford Cathedral is Mendelssohn's *Elijah* and those who recall our last performance of that work in 1991 know how thrilling it can be.

Prior to that we have an excellent Workshop Day at New Hall from 10 am to 5 pm on Saturday, 16th October 2015 promoted jointly with Stondon Singers. The day is to be tutored by Philip Thorby, a specialist in 16th century Venetian music, who is passionate about combining musicology with vitality in performance informed by the writings of musicians and others from that period. I cannot recommend a day with Philip highly enough: it will be hard work, but inspirational! The Workshop will provide an introduction and insight into some of the music we shall be performing in summer 2016 to mark the 500th anniversary of the birth of Cipriano de Rore, briefly master of the music at St Mark's. Registration details will follow later in the term, but do mark the date in your diary.

We resume rehearsals on Thursday, 16th April at St. Cedd's at the usual time of 8 pm. See you there!

Best wishes
Gerald Malton

Fundraising Concert for Great Waltham Church - Saturday, 16th May 2015

In a presentation at the end of last year it was explained that the churches at Great Waltham and Ford End had a shortfall in regular income versus expenditure of over £10,000 per annum. Clearly that position is untenable for any length of time and various initiatives have been launched to try to address it. (If you would like to contribute or obtain further detail, I can put you in touch with the appropriate people.)

Waltham Singers was founded in and around Great Waltham Church in 1973 by Peter Cross, who was the church organist at that time. The choir has continued its close relationship with the church, at one time performing the majority of concerts there, and we still give our summer concert in that wonderful acoustic most years.

As part of the fundraising effort, there is a concert of unaccompanied vocal music by Essex Voices at 7.30 pm on Saturday, 16th May 2015 in Great Waltham Church. Both Annabel and I are singing together with friends from Cambridge, London and more locally in a programme entitled *Waltham in the Spring*. The first half of the concert comprises liturgical music, some favourites and others less-well-known, with the second half much lighter in style including arrangements of standards from the American Songbook, such as *Summertime* and *Blue Moon*. There will also be a glass of wine available during the interval!

Tickets are £10 each (£6 for under-16s) and can be obtained through ourselves at our weekly rehearsals or from Daces or Walthambury Stores. Please do come and support the concert. We very much want to fill the church.

Gerald Malton

Committee meetings:

Committee meetings for the rest of this season will be held on
22nd April and 3rd June.

If there are any matters you would like to be considered by the committee,
please advise Gerald Malton or Jemma Parker in advance.

50:50 Club News:

Winners for Draw 67 are:-

£50: Denise Law £35: Philippa Berkley

£25: Jenny Crook £25: Judith Clancy £20: Christopher Malton

If you would like a number (or numbers, max 5) they cost £12 and we have three prize draws a year.

Half the income is returned in prizes and the other half helps to support our concert programme.

Please see Mike Wall for an application form, or pick one up at rehearsals from near the notice board.

Dates for your Diary

Summer Term 2015

Thursday, 16 April	8.00 pm	St Cedd's School	First rehearsal of term
Sunday, 14 June	2.00 - 4.00 pm	Gt Waltham Church	Pre-concert Sunday rehearsal
Thursday, 18 June	8.00 pm	St Cedd's School	Last rehearsal of term
Saturday, 20 June	1.00 - 4.00 pm	Gt Waltham Church	Concert day rehearsal
Saturday, 20 June	7.30 pm	Gt Waltham Church	Concert: A Sense of Place
Thursday, 25 June	8.00 pm	St Cedd's School	Annual General Meeting

Autumn Term 2015

Thursday, 3 September	8.00 pm	St Cedd's School	First rehearsal of term
Saturday, 17 October	10 am - 5 pm	New Hall School	Workshop with Philip Thorby
Sunday, 15 November	2.00 - 4.00 pm	New Hall School	Pre-concert Sunday rehearsal
Saturday, 21 November	1.00 - 4.00 pm	Chelmsford Cathedral	Concert day rehearsal
Saturday, 21 November	7.30 pm	Chelmsford Cathedral	Concert: <i>Elijah</i>
Thursday, 10 December	8.00 pm	St Cedd's School	Last rehearsal of term
Tuesday, 15 December	6.30 pm	Chelmsford Cathedral	Mencap Carol Concert rehearsal
Tuesday, 15 December	7.30 pm	Chelmsford Cathedral	Mencap Carol Concert

Future Concert Dates

Saturday, 12 March 2016	7.30 pm	KEGS	Works for choir, two pianos and percussion
Saturday, 18 June 2016	7.30 pm	Gt Waltham Church	Summer concert and 500th anniversary Cipriano de Rore
Saturday, 19 November 2016	7.30 pm	Chelmsford Cathedral	Mozart C minor Mass, Sinfonia Concertante
Saturday, 18 March 2017	7.30 pm	KEGS	
Saturday, 17 June 2017	7.30 pm	Gt Waltham Church	