

Waltham Singers newsletter

Issue No 48
April 2012

From the Chair...

It's difficult to believe that it is April already, but here we are at the start of our summer term.

Last term ended in the best way possible finishing immediately after the concert on 24th March and going out on a high. I really enjoyed the performance and it was well received by our audience, some of whom were sufficiently enthused to send me emails expressing their appreciation, particularly for Carmina Burana. It was pleasing to see a good number in the audience, as it is always a little more difficult to ask people to come and hear us in a new venue where arrangements are different from the normal routine. The School Hall had a better acoustic than I had remembered and it appears that recent repairs to the walls may have improved its resonance. Overall I thought the venue worked well and it is one that we should consider using again. Do let the committee have your own views on this.

Before moving on to this term's activities, I do want to make mention of Andrew's and Nick's special contributions to the success of the March concert. Many of you kindly asked me with concern about how we were handling the unfortunate withdrawal of our baritone soloist during the afternoon rehearsal. In the event, as a true professional, he arranged his own replacement and Charles Johnston (who was excellent) duly arrived at 7.00 pm. So, it was really Andrew's problem, who had the interesting challenge of directing a performance without the benefit of the usual rehearsal time. It is good to keep him on his toes, but it is in situations like this where quality and experience come into their own. I am also most grateful to Nick, who as well as his professional duties accompanying our rehearsals through the not insignificant Carmina score, gave generously of his time to sing with us, boosting the tenor section and also in the Palestrina works at the beginning of the concert.

Our concert this term is on Saturday, 16th June at 7.30 pm, back in the familiar surroundings of Great Waltham Church. It will as ever be a pleasure to be joined by Tim Carey at the piano, who will accompany parts of our programme and also perform some solo items for us. The Brahms Zigeunerlieder I remember fondly from a previous performance and I believe that Chilcott's Aesop's Fables will prove popular with the choir and audience alike.

It is also a very sociable term, with the snow-delayed Quiz Night rescheduled for Saturday, 19th May at the Hulton Hall in Great Waltham, our post-concert drinks and nibbles for choir and audience at the Hulton Hall after the concert on 16th June and the Barbecue at Foxtons in Little Waltham on Sunday, 1st July at 12.30 pm.

Looking further ahead, we will be performing Verdi's Requiem in Chelmsford Cathedral on 16th March 2013 as part of the choir's 40th anniversary celebrations and I am delighted to report that M&G Investments have once again generously agreed to support this concert with a donation of £2,000, which will enable us to enlist a team of soloists who can do full justice to the work.

Arrangements are also now confirmed for the tour to Venice in May 2013 when we will have a choir of 47 travelling together with 21 guests. Much of the music being taken on the tour will also be performed at our summer 2013 concert and that term's programme of rehearsals and concert will be just as relevant for those who are not travelling on the tour as for those who are.

So, much to look forward to starting with our first rehearsal of term on Thursday, 19th April at St Cedd's.

Best wishes

Gerald Malton

Dates for your Diary

Summer Term 2012

| | | | |
|------------------|----------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Sunday 10 June | 2.00 – 4.00 pm | Gt Waltham Church | Pre-concert rehearsal |
| Thursday 14 June | 8.00 pm | St Cedd's School | Last rehearsal of term |
| Saturday 16 June | 1.00 – 4.00 pm | Gt Waltham Church | Rehearsal |
| Saturday 16 June | 7.30 pm | Gt Waltham Church | Summer Concert |
| Thursday 21 June | 8.00 pm | St Cedd's School | Annual Review Meeting |
| Sunday 1 July | 12.30 pm | Foxtons, Little Waltham | Barbeque |

Autumn Term 2012

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|----------------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Thursday 6 September | 8.00 pm | St Cedd's School | First rehearsal of term |
| Sunday 2 December | 2.00 - 4.00 pm | Gt Waltham Church | Pre-concert rehearsal |
| Thursday 6 December | 8.00 pm | St Cedd's School | Last rehearsal of term |
| Saturday 8 December | 1.00 - 4.00 pm | Gt Waltham Church | Rehearsal |
| Saturday 8 December | 7.30 pm | Gt Waltham Church | Christmas Concert |

Future Concert Dates

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|---------------------------|---------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Saturday 16 March 2012 | 7.30 pm | Chelmsford Cathedral | Verdi Requiem |
| Saturday 22 June 2013 | 7.30 pm | Gt Waltham Church | 40 th Anniversary Concert |
| Saturday 16 November 2013 | 7.30 pm | Chelmsford Cathedral | |
| Saturday 15 March 2014 | 7.30 pm | | |
| Saturday 21 June 2014 | 7.30 pm | | |

50:50 Club News:

Winners for Draw 61 are:-

£50: Gerald Malton £30: Kate Hanson

£25: Sarah Bakewell, Liz Strickland £16: Libby Wiggs

Committee meetings:

The next Committee meeting will be held on 2nd May,
and will be the last before the Annual Review Meeting on 21st June.
If there are any matters you would like to be considered by the committee,
please advise Gerald Malton or Jemma Parker in advance of this date.

QUIZ NIGHT:

The Quiz Night which had to be postponed because of bad weather has been rescheduled for Saturday May 19th. Do let me know if you would like a table (eight people); priority will be given to those who were booked on the previous date, but not all those teams can make the new date so we do have some tables available.

Mike Wall