

14/01/2008 ABC Notices

Class of 2008

Well, well, well. What a fabulous start!

We had originally set a target/limit of 20 students for the class, thinking that this number would

- a) be a comfortable number so that no-one would feel 'exposed' when singing
- b) be manageable for our tutor, Bethan
- c) fit in the coffee room!

We therefore accepted registration forms from 20, and put the rest on a 'waiting list' in case anyone backed out, or in case Bethan felt she could cope with a few more.

As the Taster evening loomed, and we had a clearer idea of numbers, Bethan decided she was happy to take on as many as were interested in joining. Happy Days! So we rented the Church itself – the coffee room was relegated to its normal function.

In the event, there were 30 eager students for the ice-breaker/ taster session. A further 5 had offered apologies – 3 sick, 1 at a Ukrainian Christmas, 1 stuck at work.

With 9 Tyndalers in attendance for moral support, plus Ian Harrold our Musical Director/ Conductor, we were an impressive group.

I am delighted to report that at the end of the session none of those who had paid in advance asked to withdraw their registrations, and everyone who was a 'waiting list' person opted to sign up.

What with the absentees, when all registrations are processed, we could be as many as 35 in total.

To misquote the Lad Himself, Anthony Aloysius Hancock, that's very nearly a choirful!

We had some very enthusiastic feedback after the Taster session – it was good fun and the round singing was really very promising; let's hope we can all keep this going when the work gets more challenging!

Do keep your weekly handouts with you – Bethan may refer to previous sheets as the weeks go by.

Some answers to your questions:

Timing of the ABC class:

For the first five weeks or so, when we are doing quite a lot of theory, Bethan intends teaching us for 1 hour and 15 minutes, then we'll finish with our coffee and biscuits to wind down. Any more study might cause overheating of the brain cells.

For the remaining weeks, when we are studying excerpts from the Summer Concert programme, Bethan intends working us for an hour and a half, with the coffee break somewhere in the middle. Otherwise, you might find your throats getting dry.

Bethan will see how much progress we make as the weeks go by, and adjust her programme accordingly, so the above is given as a guide.

TCS rehearsal evenings:

For the choir proper, rehearsals run from 7.30 to 9.30, with a coffee break at 8.30.

What languages do we sing in:

We usually sing in English, but it depends on the piece. Requiems are usually in Latin, and in the last 4 years we've had some snippets of French, stage Oirish (Phaudrig Crohoore), Norwegian (King Olaf), and Native American Indian (Hiawatha)... don't worry, it's all manageable!

Do remember that some of us go to the Old Spot for a swift half after choir evenings... don't be shy, join us. Don't worry about round-buying... just get your own tipples then no-one's embarrassed. Or skint!

Julia, Secretary