

29/09/2008 Choir Notices

Rehearsal 8 of 13 (2, 5, 36b, 6, 28a, 22)

Over half way through the concert rehearsals and I feel obliged to reiterate (if not verbatim) Ian's comment of last week regarding the necessity for proper preparation. When faced with a less than satisfactory rehearsal, some conductors (no names, no pack drill) stamp their feet in tantrum, others lay on sarcasm with a trowel and some berate and bully or humiliate; that is not Ian's style or character. Ian's restraint should not be misread; his gentle admonition is indicative of considerable frustration.

We have had the scores since early July. Rehearsal CDs have been made available. A cheapo recording was found for those who wished to hear the end product. Ian provided a schedule for each rehearsal. No-one should therefore be coming to rehearsal unprepared.

If we don't prepare, then the choir as a whole is affected and progress slowed. To do ourselves proud on 15 November, we have to lift our game.

Although a bit of note-bashing of the sticky bits is to be expected, we should now be honing and polishing, not struggling through the notes.

As Mr Perrin said on Saturday, the better you know the score, the more you can communicate with the conductor and therefore give the conductor the option of interpreting the piece. If your head is down in your score, the only option is a predictable, pedestrian performance. We can do better.

So, let's all make the best of the remaining rehearsals!

Workshop/European Sacred Music

After a misty cool start, the sun came out and warmed up proceedings nicely. By lunchtime, there wasn't a tomb which wasn't adorned with picnicking workshopers! We had 80 singers on the day (of which 33 Tyndalers), with quite a few no-shows (some but not all due to sickness). It was a lot of singing and huge fun, but the hours just flew. We came away having enjoyed the workshop and having learned something new; at the very least, Nigel Perrin shook us out of our complacency and made us work hard, not tolerating any 'soggy' sound. Let's hope that the 33 Tyndalers can bring their new-found technique and awareness to rehearsal!

Final figures aren't in yet, but we shall have raised well in excess of £500 on the day. This is entirely due to the participating singers and those who pitched in to help with the preparation and the work on the day. Heartfelt thanks to all of you.

Special mention must be made of the ladies in charge of refreshments, who slaved all day rushing around with boiling water, washed up 240 mugs, and kept the biscuits and cakes coming: in charge was Sandra Luckett (who has never heard a live choral performance in her life), 'Wrennie' (ex-member), Colleen Dunmall (alto) and Freddie Keey (TCS Friend).

(Cake bakers: you are welcome to claim the cost of ingredients; please do so pronto.)

Quarts into pint pots

With the increased membership, we have a problem to solve... where to put everyone on concert day! It will help Anne Shipton as Concert Manager (and the committee) enormously to know how many singers we have to accommodate.

On the right hand side of the registers is a column for you to indicate whether you wish to sing in the concert. I know at least 2 of you who already know they cannot participate. Please co-operate on this – after a couple of weeks I shall assume a blank space means we don't have to seat you.

Staging – storage and transport

It is likely that at some point TCS will have to purchase its own staging. As part of the fact-finding phase, we need to find somewhere where we might store the equipment (say 3 trolleys 2mx1m) and some way of transporting it to the venue. Can you all work on this, please, and let the committee know of any brainwaves/solutions.

Greetings from Phil Butcher –

Phil sends his best wishes to everyone, and says he misses us. He is auditioning for Derby Choral Union, which sounds a very august institution, with Dame Emma Kirkby as President and regular soloist, and Gareth Malone solo-ing next year. There's posh.