

16/03/2009 Choir Notices

Welcome back!

It seems an age since we wished each other a happy Christmas and went our separate ways. I hope not too many of us suffered with coughs/colds/flu etc over the winter period, and that you enjoyed your break. And so to our 2009 season... where do the years go?

Questionnaires

Please hand in your completed questionnaires (distributed with the newsletter) – your committee really does need to know your opinions.

Name Badges

If you took your name badge home with you, please do bring it along for the first few weeks, until our memories are jogged sufficiently.

Bronwen Mills Workshop

We kick off the year with an evening to dust off the cobwebs. DO make the effort to come if you possibly can; Bronwen is at the top of her game and you can learn an enormous amount, no matter how experienced you are. None of us knows it all; some of us never knew it; some of us know it but never use it; some of us knew it once and forgot it. Whatever the case, it will be good to have the workout!

Please arrive early enough to find parking (remember Sainsbury's is under construction) and get to the rehearsal hall by, say, 7.20pm at the latest. This will give us time to relieve you of £3 each (for the workshop and coffee – please have the correct money if poss.) and to hand you your music for the evening.

Resources for the workshop:

Most of our time will be spent on technique and exercises, but no doubt Bronwen will want us to actually sing a piece, so we've plumped for Mozart's *Ave Verum* (just because we had the copies in our library!). It isn't difficult, and a lot of us know it already. If you wish to refresh your memory, John Hicks' Noteworthy files are on the website – go to the library, resources section. Alternatively, go to You Tube, enter "Mozart Ave Verum Corpus" in the search box, and top of the list will be the Vienna Boys Choir, complete with the score which moves along.

Ian will be at the Joanna, so he'll know exactly what we've been learning and we won't be able to swing the lead the following week.

Summer Concert Resources

We haven't been able to find a CD of the Vaughan Williams (In Windsor Forest). However, YouTube.com has come up trumps again. Search for "Vaughan Williams TMEA" and you will find all five movements done in 1993 by an American All-State Choir.

The other two pieces (Boodle and Gershwin) are less tricky to solve; Ian can provide us with learning aids.

Bach Mag. Thornbury Workshop

For the second year running, the February sun shone on Thornbury CS's workshop. There was a good turnout, and it was a very friendly crowd – well, it would be, with 17 Tyndalers there! Thornbury's chairman, Sue Joyce, did the catering, and I think we should kidnap her. Sitting on the back row in an aisle seat was a brilliant plan – I was first in the queue for EVERY tea break. I know no shame.

Had I not looked at the Bach Magnificat before the workshop, I'd have been up a gum tree. As it was, I merely shinned up said gum tree occasionally, and busked my way through the rest. We also tackled the Tippett Spirituals, which Tyndale did recently; we could have done with some Divine Intervention on the trickier rhythmical passages. And remember the layout of the score? All those repeats and systems of varying size? The challenge was to see which line you were supposed to be singing... I was glad to have my own score with me, with all the alto 2 lines highlighted.

It was a good day, and my first exposure to singing Bach was highly enjoyable. However, I think I'd better start on November's B minor Mass NOW.

And finally...

Having a cup of tea, waiting for hubbie to come home from the coalface, watching the gogglebox, I nearly fell off the couch in shock as there, on the screen, being interviewed in Coventry Cathedral, was Lay Canon Heather Wallace, who was my music teacher 34 years ago. Miss Wallace looked in the pink, with the same twinkle in her eye, strong voice, and ready smile that I remember. And boy, could she thump out 'Jerusalem' on the last day of term... 700 girls would sing out at full throttle, and never managed to drown out Miss Wallace at the school grand piano.