

18/01/2008 Notices

ABC Class of 2010

Week 2 of 10

In spite of the weather, there were 38 ABCs at the first session, and 13 Tyndalers to meet, greet and give moral support, and of course Ian Harrold, Tyndale's musical director - we were an impressive group! If driving conditions improve sufficiently, we should see a further 6-10 ABCs at our second class. To misquote the Lad Himself, Anthony Aloysius Hancock, that's very nearly a choirful!

Heartfelt thanks to Chris, our tutor, for venturing out with the end of a cough/cold and a sore throat.

We had some very enthusiastic feedback after the first session; it was good fun and the round singing was really very promising, demonstrating that we are able to sing in parts without getting led astray; let's hope we can all keep this going when the work gets more challenging!

It was a shame (but highly amusing) that a certain Tyndale bass was incapable of singing 'Three Blind Mice' without the benefit of a score in his hand.

BBC Performing Arts Fund

We are very fortunate to have been awarded a grant towards our costs from the BBC PAF Choral Ambition Scheme. The PAF is funded by all those telephone voters for shows such as 'I'd do anything' and 'How do you solve a problem like Maria'. I feel quite guilty for never having voted!

When the going gets tough...

...think Corporal Jones, and Don't Panic! Getting to grips with reading musical notation is a big challenge; it is essentially a foreign language and can seem impossibly difficult sometimes. Stick with it. I promise it will become clearer as you go. The good news is, you don't have to be an expert on the subject to allow you to function as a choir member. As with many things in life, the more effort and practice you put in, the greater the result and reward, so do your homework. If you have any worries at all, please do speak to Chris, or Julia, or any other Tyndaler – we want you to stay the distance!

Ticking the register

- a. ABCs are asked to arrive in good time for a prompt 7.30 pm start
- b. please complete the register in the coffee room each week on arrival

- c. if you know in advance you cannot attend on a particular week, please indicate this on the register; then we'll know not to worry about you
- d. if you cannot attend at shorter notice, please offer your apologies to the Secretary by phone (01454 260877) or email

Choral Etiquette

The singers' golden rule: when the conductor (Chris) is talking, we do not.

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

The Messiah library copies: in theory, we receive these clean of markings (this isn't always the case!) and are required to return them to the library clean of markings. If as the course progresses you find it helpful to make a note in the score, then do so lightly in soft pencil (2b pencils available from Julia for 25p). Remember, anything you write in you will have to erase before handing back the score to Lynette.

The Tyndale website shop

If you would like to have your own Messiah copy to deface, permanently annotate, colour with highlighters, or make paper planes with, then you can buy your own. It's a useful score to have on your shelf, as it is sung so often. The Novello edition is currently on offer at Amazon and I am happy to do a bulk order; the price as I write is £5.85 (normally £8.95) but this changes every five minutes. If you wish me to order a copy for you, tick the list in the coffee room.

If you wish to order it yourself, then please do so by accessing Amazon via the Tyndale website SHOP page. It costs you not a penny more, and Tyndale gets a small commission. (You can also buy from John Lewis, M&S, Musicroom, and several other retailers in the same way. Go have a look!)

Answers to some of your questions:

Half term

What's one of those? We plough on regardless, in order to fit in 10 sessions before Tyndale starts its rehearsal season.

Tyndale rehearsals

Same day, venue and format as the ABC, commencing March 22. We are doing Durufle's Requiem and Ireland's 'These things shall be'.

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 tipple then no-one's embarrassed. Or skint!

Julia, Secretary