

25/01/2008 Notices

ABC Class of 2010

Week 3 of 10

Stocktake

So, what have you learned in the first two weeks?

- how to turn notes into clapped rhythms
- how to spell 'cabbage' on the bass and treble clefs
- how to spot the different between a waltz and a march by checking the time signature
- that breathing in for singing is the exact opposite of breathing in to do up your trousers - you let everything go, rather than pulling it in
- whether you are, for the moment, S, A, T or B (but that might change as your technique improves and you exercise your vocal chords).

Now that's what I call progress!

As with any new subject, there are some things you just need to be aware of, and some things you have to learn by heart. The lines/spaces of the bass and treble clefs are ABSOLUTE necessities for you. Do some homework!

Tyndalers there to help you

We have around a dozen Tyndalers with us each week - not always the same faces. They are on strict orders not to sit together, but to spread themselves among the ABCs and give you some support. Although it's not easy for us to move around during the lesson, if you are struggling and would like some help, please do say so. Don't be embarrassed - we want you to succeed, so pipe up.

Patience, patience

You are all dying to crack on with singing; after all, that's the fun bit. However, you have signed up to learn the basics of sight-singing, the skills you need if you wish to join a choral society (or similar) and sing wonderful works from the score. If we don't lay good foundations with the music notation, you won't stand an earthly in a choral rehearsal. As the weeks go by, the emphasis will shift more towards singing as we put into practice all that Chris is covering in these early stages. Stick with it - and reap the rewards in due course!

Just in case...

...you didn't read or have forgotten the content of our course flyer (the green registration form, also on the website), I need to revisit the question of what happens at the end of the course - some of you have been asking.

Tyndale didn't want to restrict access to the ABC; we made it clear that we were happy for anyone to join the ABC and then go off and pursue whatever singing outlet they preferred. It wasn't just about recruiting to Tyndale.

Tyndale does not have sufficient space - either in the rehearsal room or in the concert setting - to offer membership to everyone on the course. We will do our best to accommodate as many as wish to join us, but fear not - there are other choral societies, other singing groups for you to consider.

Messiah scores

They've arrived already. If you ordered one, please bring £5.78 with you on Monday.

Tips of the week

Do bring a bottle of water with you, and sip frequently during singing sessions. The throat quickly dehydrates, and singing on a parched throat is difficult and potentially harmful. Doesn't sound too great, either!

Never hold your scores in your laps; you cannot sing with a bent head and restricted airway. Hold the score up so that your head is erect, the shoulders are down, your neck is as long as Nefertiti's, and the conductor is in your eyeline over the top of the score.

DO make sure you do some breathing and singing exercises (as Chris has taught you) every day. In the car, on dog walks, while ironing... any opportunity.

Do dip into the Messiah score. Look for the tunes you know, see how they are represented on the page. Practise working out rhythms and clapping them. This will all help build familiarity with notation.

Julia, Secretary