

08/02/2008 Notices

ABC Class of 2010

Week 5 of 10

Half way!

You are now familiar with such terms as 'anacrusis' and 'modulation', so when your conductor uses them you can nod sagely, or just impress friends and family from time to time.

We never said it would be easy...

Some of you found last week a bit discombobulating, as the theory of major keys and key signatures was quite a large meal to consume. I hope that by looking at it quietly at home, you will have been able to digest it.

If it is still lying like a midnight chilli kebab on your stomach, I attach a distillation of what I, a sight-reader who aspires to be described as 'dodgy', think is the important stuff. Print it off and add to your handouts, or ignore it as you see fit!

The Good News

You have already been introduced to the bulk of the theory which Chris wishes to cover and the end is in sight. We just have to understand what minor scales are, then learn intervals in week 6, and you'll have everything you need to tackle any piece of music.

From this week on, there will be more singing to be done. Don't be fooled – this doesn't mean the pace slackens off or that it gets easier! You will be putting the theory into practice.

Week 7 will be Bronwen Mills, then weeks 8, 9, and 10 we will have an accompanist with us while Chris puts us through our paces and gets us into good choral habits, such as watching the conductor.

A chance to sing the Messiah

To remind you why you are doing this course, I urge you to go to this event. On Sunday, March 7, at 2pm, at St Mary's Church Thornbury, there will be a 'come and sing' the Messiah in aid of the Haiti Earthquake Appeal. This is the Church's initiative, not a choral society's, but members of Thornbury CS are involved. There is no participation fee, but there is a retiring collection (ie, you pay to get out!).

I have already checked, and as raw ABCs you will be very welcome. You can take your Messiah copies with you, and have a go with gay abandon. Don't be afraid of it – it'll be very relaxed, a good experience, and even if you just mostly goldfish and follow your line of the score, it'll be excellent practice. Sit by an experienced singer and you'll be amazed how much you can do. And all in a good cause. (Can't go myself – off to Birmingham to hear the St Matthew Passion.)

I believe there's another Messiah Come and Sing coming up soon in Dursley – that's a pay-to-get-in event. I'll give you more information when I have it.

BBC Radio Gloucester

Vere Richards will be with us again this evening.

Tip of the Week

I think you've had enough tips for this week, but, to quote Churchill, "KBO" !

Julia, Secretary