

22/02/2008 Notices

ABC Class of 2010

Week 7 of 10

Winter ain't over yet...

It was too much to hope that week one would be the only session threatened by Winter weather. As I write, the forecasts are very mixed for Monday. Can I remind you to check our website (news page) and / or your email inboxes before setting out on Monday if the more depressing forecasts prevail. Thanks.

Bronwen Mills

Be prepared for anything this week! Soak up every bit of advice - worth its weight in gold. Throw yourselves into the physical stuff, miaow when you're asked to - don't be embarrassed. I promise you, you'll sing notes this week you didn't think you had in you!

BBC Radio Gloucester

Vere will be with us again this week. If he asks what a crotchet is, invoke the fifth amendment.

Choral Society (Facts of) Life

Choral societies are, of course, wonderful things. Especially societies like Tyndale, which allow average singers (like me) with poor sight-singing skills (like me) to learn and have the sheer joy of singing great music. There is also the social benefit - a choral society is a great way to meet people with whom you share at least one interest!

I don't wish to frighten you off, but I think it salutary for you to know a few facts about choral societies.

Being a member is certainly a commitment. From the performance standard point of view, it is important to attend the vast majority of rehearsals and do your homework. But there's more to it than that.

Most choral societies are well-established bodies with charitable status, which is justified by the way in which the societies work within their communities; for example, by giving people the opportunity to sing, by staging concerts at affordable ticket prices, and by means of any other projects they see fit to organise. (Like the ABC.)

We try to keep subscriptions as low as practicable, and we hope these cover our rehearsal overheads (director, accompanist, venue, admin. etc) and a bit more besides.

Concerts are a horse of a different colour. The conductor, concert soloists and orchestra are professionals. It may interest you to know that Tyndale's winter concert with an orchestra of 18 and 4 soloists is budgeted to cost in excess of £4000 - offset by ticket sales, but only to a degree. If we come out with a loss of under £2250, we'll be thrilled. There is a bit of a shortfall to be covered!

None of this happens without many members contributing in practical ways to the running of the society, giving of their time and talents; be it by serving on the committee as a Charity Trustee, by making tea, by running the website, by volunteering to put out chairs for concerts, or by making cakes for sale to raise funds. Every member should pull their weight in whatever way they can.

So you see, in addition to being an absolute joy which can give you an unbeatable natural high, choral singing is a serious business. Literally.

Julia, Secretary