

08/03/2010 Notices

ABC Class of 2010

Week 9 of 10

Reminder - Road Closure

Castle Street (outside the Methodist Church) will be closed from 7.30pm from the traffic lights to the Town Hall, so the swimming pool car park will not be available this week.

Those coming from the Cam direction should park in the car park by the Old Spot Inn on May Lane and walk down via the pedestrian shopping zone to the Church.

Those coming from the Uley direction should use Long Street car park.

In any event, I suggest you car pool (if you don't already) so that the problems are minimised.

Didn't you do well!

Give yourselves a pat on the back. Last week you note-bashed then sang through the Hallelujah Chorus in under an hour. Owzat! It obviously needs just a *smidge* of polish (ahem), but well done. From some of the comments I heard, some of you now understand that preparation DOES help, that it isn't impossible to follow the score and sing, and that it feels pretty darn good when you've done it. So...

...fancy being a Tyndaler?

I will put a clipboard in the coffee room tonight. If you'd like to continue your singing with Tyndale, please tick the box next to your name, and indicate what voice section you think you are. Ian will then see you (hear you!) next week. Don't let this put you off – it's a simple check, and no more than many of you have already volunteered for with Chris.

A word of appreciation from us to you

Not only have you sometimes braved ice, snow, and freezing temperatures, but one has raced back from a funeral in the Midlands, one has refused to go to a party

choosing to come to class, one has dragged herself in with a crippling trapped nerve in her back, another is playing chauffeur to our accompanist... does your dedication know any bounds at all? Tyndalers can do all they like, and Chris can teach like the Weltmeister he is, but it is all for nought if you don't turn up. Your record is excellent. Well done, and thank you.

Tips of the Week

Picking up on what Chris said last week about performing, I thought you might enjoy a quote from notices I once gave to Tyndalers before a concert:

“For the love of the audience ...

1. Check your 'singing face' in the bathroom mirror, and ask yourself if you would pay £10 to watch it.
2. Make the necessary corrections and aim for three quid's worth at the very least.
3. If the above made you smile, you'll be half way there.”

They didn't speak to me for weeks.

Singing through the eyes

Harry Christophers (director of The Sixteen) and indeed Nigel Perrin (fabulous conductor/workshop leader/ex King's Singer) both say that you should sing through the eyes. Odd concept.

No matter what the mood of the piece, requiem mass or Happy Birthday, the eyebrows should be well lifted – perhaps not a la Angela Rippon (there are limits), but certainly enough to brighten the countenance and widen the eye. This has several benefits: it makes you look brighter, it makes you feel better, it improves communication with the audience, it tends to have a beneficial knock-on effect to your posture, and the use of the facial muscles has a positive effect on your resonance. THINK of singing through the eyes.

Whatever else you do, don't stand like a sack of spuds, head slumped, with a glum expression. You will sound as good as you look.

Julia, Secretary