



Newsletter

No. 15

Spring
2001

Conductor's Welcome

Welcome to the new season of the Tyndale Choral Society. This season will combine very well known music (Messiah) with music we have sung once before (Elgar's "From the Bavarian Highlands" - in English) and music the Society as a whole has not tackled before (the 'Magnificat' by John Rutter). This is set to a mixture of Latin and English texts and is John Rutter at his best with some breath-takingly rhythmic music combined with sublimely beautiful melody. We will also sing some unaccompanied music in the Summer Concert.

We will be rehearsing on the May Day Bank Holiday Monday this year as we have moved the summer concert forward by one week to be part of the Festival taking place at St. James the Great in Dursley. I know this is the second year running that we have not presented a concert in Wotton, but the chance of finishing the Festival with a splendid concert was too good to miss.

Can I ask all of you to increase the number of rehearsals you attend, particularly during the

summer. We are having to hire some of the Rutter scores and cannot afford to have them for the whole three months, so when they arrive in May we will need to pull out ALL the stops to get the work learned in time. The other music will be here at the beginning of the season, so I want to get ahead with that at the beginning of our rehearsal period. Please try not to miss rehearsals unless it is absolutely necessary. (Rehearsal dates appear elsewhere in the accompanying information card).

Regrettably we have not yet found another accompanist although there were plenty of names put forward. The regular weekly commitment seems to be just too much to ask. I will keep trying and will certainly make sure we have an accompanist at the start of the season even if he/she is not permanent.

Finally, please persuade your singing friends to join us at our rehearsals so that they can test the water before deciding to join us for the season. All voices are welcome. The members themselves are always the best

Tyndale Choral Society

recruiters and you are the best people to attract newcomers.

I am looking forward to conducting you once again and renewing old friendships. See you in March.

Michael

For the Latin Scholars among our singers I include this deeply moving Latin poem:

Caesar ad sum iam for te
Brutus ad erat,
Caesar sic in omnibus
Brutus sic in at.

And as a reminder of all our failings:

A CHORISTER'S CONFESSION

Almighty and most merciful Conductor
We have erred and strayed from thy
beat like lost sheep.

We have followed too much the
intonations and tempi of our own
hearts.

We have offended against thy dynamic
markings,

We have left unsung those notes which
we ought to have sung
and we have sung those notes which we
ought not to have sung
and there is no support in us.

But thou O Conductor,
have mercy upon us miserable singers,
Succour the chorally unchallenged.

Restore thou those that need sectionals.
Spare thou them that have no pencils.
Pardon our mistakes and have faith that
hereafter we will follow thy directions
and sing together in perfect harmony.
Amen.

SPRING CONCERT

Saturday 30th June at 7.30pm

St James' Parish Church Dursley

The Rutter **Magnificat**

Elgar's **Six Songs from the Bavarian**

Highlands and other lighter pieces,

with Jillian Whitehead - soprano.

AUTUMN CONCERT

Saturday 10th November at 7.30pm

St James' Parish Church Dursley

with the Tyndale Chamber Orchestra

The **Messiah** by G F Handel

Soloists:

Soprano - to be arranged

Stephen Power - counter-tenor

Peter Wilman - tenor

Philip Webb - baritone

Rehearsals on the two Mondays
before the concerts (18th and 25th
June, and 29th October and 5th
November) will be in Dursley Parish
Church at 7.30pm. The rehearsals on
the **afternoon** of the concerts will be
at 2.30pm.

Dress:

Ladies: Long black skirt and long-
sleeved white blouse.

Men: DJ or dark suit, white shirt and
black bow tie.

Chairman's Message ...

"There are two kinds of music - good and bad. If you like it, it's good; if you don't, it's bad!"

Robin Ray in Words on Music.

As the 2001 season begins, your committee has already been working hard to ensure that all will go smoothly this year.

Our summer concert will be held in Dursley again as we have been asked to be part of a festival celebrating local artists. It has been quite a struggle to get the music ready in time for our first rehearsal but I think we will just make it! We must now begin to think about 2002, so if anyone has any suggestions for music that they are desperate to sing, (particularly for the summer concert) please let me know.

As you can see from the card, we have several new members on the committee and they are most welcome. The job of the Secretary has been changed slightly to make it more manageable. So we now have both a general Secretary (Jennie Cobb) and a Concert Secretary (Marion Miller). Geoff Whiley has decided that this will be his last year as Treasurer so we will be looking for someone to take over this role for next season. If you decide that this could be just the job for

you, please let one of the committee know. It would be helpful if this was sooner rather than later so that you have the opportunity to work with Geoff through part of this season, at least.

I urge you to try and recruit new members for this coming season. Our numbers have been fluctuating for some years now and at present are on the low side. This, of course, means less revenue in the form of subscriptions and a smaller choice of music, particularly for the November concert. However, we are very grateful for the continuing support of our present membership and I look forward to seeing you all again at our first rehearsal.

Finally, a quote from Adolphe Adam, a French music critic of the 19th century. "It is not unjust to define amateur concerts by saying that the music performed at them seems to have been composed to make those who render it happy and those who listen to despair". I would like to think that if he attended one of our concerts, he would change his mind!

Anne

What do you do on holiday?

On a cold wet day in October, Ros Wakefield and I set off for the south of France to join a Singing Week run by James Griffith and Paul Esswood of *Pro Cantione Antigua*. About fifty singers were spread round apartments and hotels; our balcony looked out to blue seas and sky, and palm trees.

Our singing day started at 10am and went on until 1pm when we stopped for lunch, a seat on the beach or a swim. Singing began again at 4.30 until 8.00pm, followed by supper and, quite exhausted, to bed.

We covered a wide range of music; Lamentations of Jeremiah - Lobo, Stabat Mater - Palestrina, Miserere - Allegri, plus many part songs and madrigals. Sometimes we sang as one choir, sometimes as two and then in sub-sections and men's and women's choirs. There were several very good young singers, pupils of Jim, who sang the solos.

Our rehearsals were reminiscent of Tyndale. Thanks to Michael's good teaching we were well aware of singing through vowels, phrasing etc. - it helped a lot!

We ended the week with a concert in Le Lavandou and a standing ovation.

Diary Dates and Other Matters ...

New Members

Please try and encourage potential new members to come along to rehearsals at the start of the season, in particular, and make sure you introduce them to the Secretary, Jenny Cobb.

Sales Stall: The stall will again be in operation throughout the season. It makes an important contribution to the funds, so bring along books, plants and other produce, records, tapes and anything else that is saleable, and in any case visit the stall and buy.

Saturday 10th November - help will be needed to erect staging and to dismantle it after the concert so please contact the Concert Manager (John Ewer) and Asst. (Mike Chambers) with offers of assistance - *they can't do it all on their own*.

Subscriptions: The rate will be £31 if paid before 28th May otherwise £32 (see card). The Treasurer, Geoff Whiley (bass) will be pleased to assist.

Thursday 15th November - Annual General Meeting in the Parish Centre, Dursley at 7.30pm.

The poppy collection at the November Concert made £38.45. Thanks to all.

Conductor's AGM Report November 2000

I can hardly believe that we have arrived at another Tyndale AGM. It is in many ways a memorable one. It marks the end of Wendy's time as Secretary and the end of Anne's first year as Chairman. (Newer members might not be aware that Wendy took over as Secretary from Anne). We all owe Wendy a tremendous debt of gratitude because of the conscientious way she has carried out her task over the years. We are extremely lucky to have Officers on the committee who work very hard for the good of the whole group and I know that my task is made easier because of it. The whole committee deserves the thanks of every member.

I usually start this Report by talking of the Summer Concert first, but this year, The Millennium Year, the November concert is so much in my thoughts. I would like all those members who are here today to make sure that they pass on to all absent members the deeply felt pleasure that the November concert has given me. The concert was a great success because of your hard work and commitment. It was very exciting to see so many singers on the staging. I was sorry that Andrew was not well enough to sing with us. Thank you, Andrew, for your hard work in arranging the erection of the staging. This staging seems to give us the equivalent of about 20 more

men, or so it seems to me!! John Sanders was very pleased with the concert and wrote me a very sincere letter, full of praise for the high standard of everyone's performance. I am sure we will hear a lot from Diana Moore in the future. Philip Webb will be singing again for us in November. The girls' choir improved as the work unfolded and their contribution was a very valuable one. I have been in touch with Delyth Mayhew by phone and letter to thank her for her efforts in training the girls. The 'crit' which appeared in the *Gazette* was, on the whole, fair and showed a few areas which need to be addressed, although it must be said that intonation problems among the sopranos did **not** arise in our **local** rehearsals at Stinchcombe. (That report was written by Anita who played the piano in the Newent Concert - see over the page).

It was good to see so many in the audience too. I am sure this gave all you singers a lift and helped you give such splendid performances of both works. You can be justly proud of your efforts. I am sorry that the Newent Concert did not have an orchestra, yet it was a most enjoyable experience and I enjoyed singing the two works again. I enjoyed the final rehearsal on the Tuesday before the concert at Newent and I hope that Peter and John didn't find it too

disconcerting to have their conductor sitting between them.

Generally speaking, I think that an increase in our numbers can only benefit the Society. If we could guarantee a consistent chorus of 80, we would be much better off. Keep trying to persuade younger members to join. More men would be very welcome, of course. Perhaps we could help younger singers by subsidising *Choraline* cassettes. I am prepared to record voice parts which are not covered by that organisation. In this way I am sure we can help young singers who are not yet skilled in reading music to learn their parts more quickly.

Are there any recruitment ideas? Please don't feel shy about coming forward with suggestions.

The summer concert of Opera excerpts seems a long way away as I write this conductor's report at the AGM, yet it gave a lot of pleasure to the audience. I am sorry that we did not perform in Wotton, but as you will remember we had a clash with our original date with another choir with which we share members. The format of the concert was a good one with plenty of variety and the chorus sang splendidly throughout "Merry England". The soloists all added their special contributions to the evening. Gloria Finch as Queen Elizabeth performed splendidly and the other soloists contributed well to our performance. A special 'thank - you' to Anne Shipton,

who sang the role of Jill - All - Alone in "Merry England".

We last sang a performance of *Messiah* in November 1996 and I am looking forward to conducting it again in 2001. I have already booked three of the four soloists and they are all young singers with a particular Gloucester connection. The work is always interesting to sing although people often find that they don't know the notes as well as they think they do!

Critique of Millenium Concert in Dursley Parish Church on 11th November 2000

A near capacity audience clearly enjoyed the concert given by Tyndale and Newent Choral Society with a semi-chorus from Stroud High School for Girls and Tyndale Chamber Orchestra conducted by Michael Power.

After the orchestra's atmospheric and melodic rendering of of Fauré's Pavane, the two choral societies gave a stirring performance of the Requiem by John Rutter.

Each movement was sensitively interpreted, with good dynamic range and clarity, inspired by fine cello and oboe solos, although the intonation of the sopranos in quietly sustained melodic passages was suspect.

Tina Power (soprano) gave moving interpretations of Pie Jesu and Lux Aeterna with effortless top notes, following the composer's wishes *dolce e semplice*.

In the second half, all the forces combined to perform The Cotswolds composed in 1996 by Tyndale Choral Society's new president, Dr John Sanders OBE.

This exciting work, with five movements inspired by local poets, demands very precise rhythm with some dramatic changes in dynamics and pace.

The choirs gave a pleasing performance on Saturday, November 11 but were always totally confident and convincing.

The semi-chorus sang well but the sound could have been better projected.

Philip Webb (baritone) sang Cotswold Choice most musically and Diana Moore (mezzo-soprano) used her considerable talent to give very inspiring performances of The Valley and Birdlip Hill.

Anita Clark

Letter from Dr John Sanders to Michael Power regarding TCS Concert

Dear Michael,
I felt that I must write to you, firstly, to thank you most sincerely for putting

"The Cotswolds" into your programme, and secondly for performing it so excellently on Saturday. I was really very moved by the whole concert and not only by my own work. I felt that the singing was so sensitive and musical - you and your performers caught the atmosphere admirably and you were very well served by the soloists. An evening to remember.

So big "thank you" all round to you, the soloists, the orchestra, the Tyndale and Newent Choruses and of course Delyth and the girls from Stroud. I hope you will have the opportunity to pass these sentiments on to those concerned and perhaps at least read this letter to your Tyndale members. I felt proud to be their new President

Sincerely yours,
John.

CONTRIBUTIONS!

The spare space is for your contributions! There has been one this time - it would be good to have more. Please contact **Dick Skinner (bass)** if you have something to offer or would like to discuss any ideas you may have. It can be on more-or-less any topic, although preferably appertaining to music, so long as it would be of interest to other members. The next edition will come out in September 2001- contributions should reach me by early August (tel:01453 - 860493).

NOTICE BOARD

*O*riana Singers

Conductor David Moss

Music by
Britten, Byrd, Copland
and Purcell

**Saturday 24th March 2001
at 7.30pm
Wotton Parish Church**

Ewelme Singers

Conductor Lynn James

Spring Concert

**Saturday 28th April 2001
at 7.00pm
Dursley Parish Church**