

Newsletter

Spring
2002

No. 17

Conductor's Welcome ...

I hope you were as pleased as I was with our performance of Messiah on 10th November last year. I hope you were able to realise why I spent time at rehearsals getting the details right rather than just accepting what you were offering as your final performance. You remembered all the points I made and I was really delighted with the performance in every respect and thought that J.W. in the Gazette wrote just what I was thinking. It is really only when a choir knows the notes well that the serious business of interpretation can be tackled.

After a three hour rehearsal and a performance which demanded a high level of concentration throughout, I was amazed that I had not felt tired at all. Your final chorus was as exciting as "And the glory of the Lord", with which you started. The soloists and the orchestra were amazingly good. Thank you very much for your hard work and musicality.

I had a letter from Yvonne Dyball, who as you know is a former member of the Society

and was Deputy Conductor. She remembers that when she was a student she was told by her professor that the movements in Messiah were based on dances. This was what my speeds were aiming towards and thanks to you all we brought it off.

John Sanders, our President, was at another concert where one of his compositions was being performed and was sorry he couldn't be at Dursley. Enough reports reached him so that he knew he had missed a very fine performance.

Thank you too for the summer concert where you performed Rutter and Elgar with the fine accompaniment of Christopher Boodle and the assured sound of soprano Jillian Whitehead. This was a hard concert and turned out better than you had expected. Please try to "sell" these summer concerts to a wider range of audience. They are less expensive to put on so that we stand a better chance of making money to put towards our November concert. I am convinced too that full houses help a chorus to sing to the limit of their ability.

Tyndale Choral Society

We shall be without several singers this season. Please try to recruit new members especially tenors and basses, but **ALL** voices are welcome.

I was sorry to have to say goodbye to Keith Burgess, a loyal member of the Society for many years. A former Chairman, he was instrumental in commissioning **Death of a Martyr** from Christopher during our Centenary year which also featured performances in Oxford and Gloucester Cathedral. He has stuck by us despite poor health but felt he had to bow out after the Messiah.

This year's programme is set out elsewhere. Please make a note of the rehearsal dates and try to increase your attendance if you possible can.

I am looking forward to renewing old friendships and making many, many new friends".

Regards, Michael

H.M.S.Pinafore

I will publish the names of the characters in the operetta that I would like sung by members of the Society along with the song that potential cast members would need to sing as an audition piece. We will NOT use the recitatives as there will be a spoken narration. I will also go through the audition pieces in the full rehearsals, using the whole section of voices to sing that particular number.

N.B. Captain Corcoran will be sung by Richard Bacon, the baritone soloist in *Songs of the Fleet* by Stanford.

SPRING CONCERT

Saturday 29th June at 7.30pm

St Mary's, Wotton-under-Edge

Saturday 6th July at 7.30pm

in Leonard Stanley Church

Stanford - *Songs of the Fleet*

Rutter - Sprig of Thyme

Gilbert & Sullivan - HMS Pinafore

with Richard Bacon - bass

AUTUMN CONCERT

Saturday 9th November at 7.30pm

St James' Parish Church Dursley

with the Tyndale Chamber Orchestra

Handel's Coronation Anthems

Britten's St. Nicholas

Soloist:

Stephen Davis - tenor

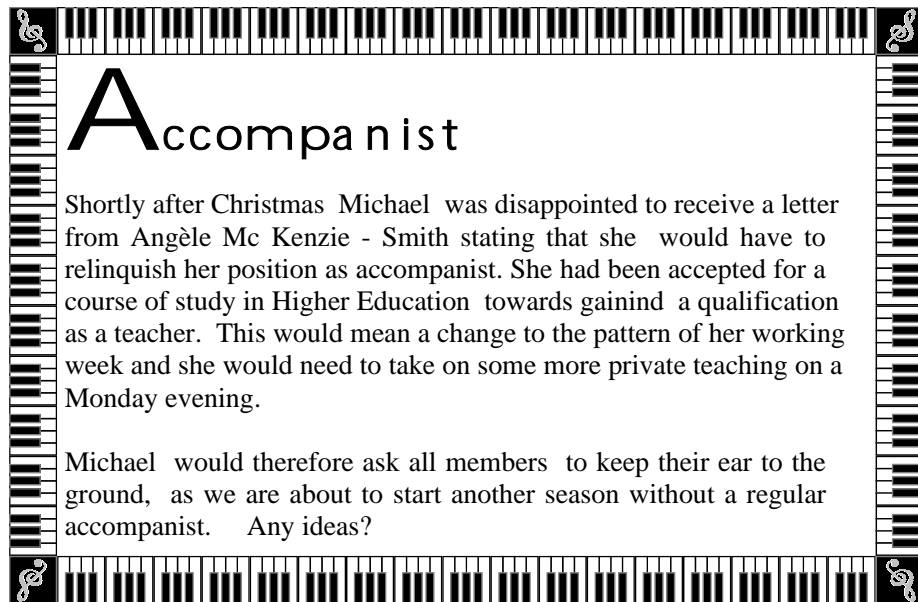
Concert rehearsals will be on the two Mondays before each of the concerts: 17th and 24th June in Wotton Parish Church, and 28th October and 4th November in Dursley Parish Church at 7.30pm. The rehearsals on the **afternoon** of the concerts will be at 2.30pm.

Dress:

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

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

Urgently Required ...



Accompanist

Shortly after Christmas Michael was disappointed to receive a letter from Angèle Mc Kenzie - Smith stating that she would have to relinquish her position as accompanist. She had been accepted for a course of study in Higher Education towards gaining a qualification as a teacher. This would mean a change to the pattern of her working week and she would need to take on some more private teaching on a Monday evening.

Michael would therefore ask all members to keep their ear to the ground, as we are about to start another season without a regular accompanist. Any ideas?

CONTRIBUTIONS!

There are a number of spare spaces for your contributions! 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 2002 - contributions should reach me by early August (tel:01453 - 860493).

Critique of
**Autumn Concert in Dursley Parish Church
on 10th November 2001**

‘Warm applause in a chilly church’

The Tyndale Choral Society gave a fine performance of Handel’s *Messiah* in St James’ Church, Dursley.

The conductor, Michael Power, drew some beautiful playing from the Tyndale Chamber Orchestra, led by Claire Piper, and from the opening chords of the overture the large and appreciative audience knew that it was about to enjoy a very special performance. Even the breakdown of the church’s heating system during part one failed to cool the warmth of its ovation.

The chorus coped extremely well, and sounded as fresh in the final *Amen* chorus as it had in its first entry of *And the Glory of the Lord*. After a long and taxing work this was a notable achievement. Tuning and ensemble were of high order, and it was good to hear sensitive pianissimo singing as well as full-throated fortes. The orchestra also achieved a fine dynamic range, and an authoritative yet unobtrusive harpsichord continuo accompanied the singing with sensitivity.

The soprano soloist, Lisa Wilson, communicated beautifully with the audience and the full radiance of her voice was heard to thrilling effect in *I know that my Redeemer Liveth*.

The other three soloists shared the distinction of all having been choristers at Gloucester Cathedral. Stephen Power, counter-tenor, was particularly effective in his upper register. The tenor soloist, Peter Wilman, who is a member of the Welsh National Opera, performed with fine professional authority, control, and beauty of tone. Philip Webb, the bass, produced a lovely and impressive consistency across a wide range and was magnificently accompanied by Stuart Ellsmore in *The Trumpet shall Sound*.

The Tyndale *Messiah* was a deeply satisfying experience and Mr Power is to be congratulated on holding together this huge and glorious work with authority.

Chairman's Message ...

Dear Friends,

As we think about coming together for our 42nd season I would like to begin with a thank you. A thank you to you all for your commitment and enthusiasm. It is this that has kept the society going for 42 years – an amazing achievement. But (and isn't there always a *but!*) there is no way we can keep going for another 42 years if we don't have some new members. It would be good if some of those new members were young people but any new members will be very welcome. I don't know where these new members are going to come from but I know I can rely on you to do your best to recruit a friend or perhaps a new acquaintance if you can.

I am pleased that we have two summer concerts this year, one of which is at Leonard Stanley as part of their annual Festival. I hope too that the music is diverse enough to please everyone.

You will be pleased to hear that Angela Sinton has agreed to take on the Secretarial position. She will shadow Jenny Cobb for the present and will take over during the first part of the season. Angela has been a valuable committee member before, looking after the publicity, and we are very pleased that

she feels able to take on this important role.

Elsewhere there is a notice about our urgent need for a new accompanist. It is a great pity that Angèle can no longer play due to other commitments. Please give some thought to whom you know who might be able to assist. If you have any ideas please let me know as soon as possible.

See you all very soon.

Best wishes, Anne Shipton

A Musical Anecdote

- on the subject of singing conductors and communication. An orchestra was rehearsing a new work by a modern composer. The maestro was unhappy with a passage played by the clarinet. "No, no, no!" he cried. "Don't play it like that, but like this" and he sang "La-la-la... la, la ... Laaa, LA." "Ah!" said the player, in mock surprise, "you mean" ... and also sang "La-la-la... la, la ... Laaa, LA." "Yes, yes that's it," the conductor said, content. The clarinetist paused for a moment - then through gritted teeth - said, "Good. Now we can both sing it, who's going to play it?"

SOLOISTS for the concerts:

Richard Bacon sang with us in *An Evening at the Opera* in the summer concert in 2000. He studied singing with Susan Gray of Ashted and has been singing principal operatic roles with companies in the Surrey area for over thirty years. These have included characters such as Papageno in Mozart's *Magic Flute*, Germont in Verdi's *Traviata*, Bobinet in Offenbach's *La Vie Parisienne* and Eisenstein in Strauss's *Die Fledermaus* as well (of course) as a good range of Gilbert and Sullivan roles. Richard has also enjoyed performing in concerts, recitals, and a wide range of oratoria.

Stephen Davis is a soloist with many of the leading choirs in the Midlands, most notably Ex Cathedra, the regions foremost chamber choir, and has also sung with the Britten Singers, Northern Voices, London Voices, The Academy of Ancient Music and The Schütz Choir. He broadcasts regularly on Radio 4 with BBC Manchester's Daily Service Singers. In recent months Stephen has performed Bach Passions and B Minor Mass, Haydn Creation, Mozart Requiem, Rossini Petite Messe, Berlioz' Childhood of Christ, Britten's Winter Words and Serenade, Vaughan Williams On Wenlock Edge and Pilgrims Journey, and numerous Messiahs. Stephen also works as a choral conductor, a vocal coach to schools and choral societies, and as an adjudicator.

Diary Dates and Other Matters ...

New Members

Please 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 so that she can welcome them and take their details.

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.

Subscriptions: Please pay early in the season. The rate will be £32 if paid before 27th May otherwise £33 (see card) and £16.00 (or £16.50 after 27th May) for full-time students. If you yourself pay tax, you can Gift Aid your subscriptions very simply so that the Society can reclaim the tax paid - a free bonus to the funds! The Treasurer, Kate Reeves (alto) will be happy to provide details.

Fund Raising

A Come and Sing Brahms Requiem will be held on Saturday 18th May at St James Parish Church Dursley. Please do your best to support it.

Saturday 9th 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.*

Thursday 14th November - **Annual General Meeting** in the Parish Centre, Dursley at 7.30pm.

May 11th. at 7.30. As part of the Stroud Festival, Christopher Boodle will be giving an organ recital in St. Lawrence's Church (or is it Lawrence's?) in Stroud. I will be singing 5 or 6 well-known tenor arias / sacred songs as part of the programme.

NOTICE BOARD

Oriana Singers

Conductor David Moss

A Handel Chandos Anthem
Beethoven's Calm Sea and a
Prosperous Voyage *and* Cantata on
the Death of Emperor Joseph 11

Saturday 23rd March 2002
at 7.30pm
United Reformed Church

Amberley Chamber Choir

Conductor Harry Lyall

Recital

Saturday 9th March 2002
at 7.30pm
Eastington Parish Church