



Newsletter

No. 19

Spring
2003

Tyndale Choral Society

Conductor's Welcome

We can look back on a season where the numbers of singers has stayed fairly constant although the balance between Tenors /Basses and Sopranos/ Altos has not been very equal. The balance between the voices has usually been good in terms of sound. A few extra male voices for the Winter Concert made a big difference and it would be good to have the extra voices all through the season. It does mean that we have a better balance when we give a concert with orchestra.

It was good to have the opportunity to sing the summer concert twice. We had been invited by the Leonard Stanley Festival to perform on the first Saturday in July. This was why there had to be a rearrangement of the concert dates which caused a few problems for members. The Stanford *Songs of the Fleet* and *A Sprig of Thyme* by John Rutter were well sung on both occasions and the Society, ably supported by Richard Bacon's fine baritone voice was, as usual, very well accompanied by Christopher Boodle. My thanks to Anne for introducing us to the Rutter work which she had sung on a course directed by John Rutter himself. The rest of the concert was a performance of H. M. S . Pinafore by Gilbert and Sullivan.

This was great fun to sing although not without its difficult moments. Richard was Captain Corcoran and members of the Society took the major roles very professionally. Lynette Magnone, Andrew Young, were the young lovers and Geoff Whiley played Sir Joseph Porter K.C.B. with panache and style. Mrs Cripps was well sung by Joyce Theaker, Lisa Randall was an admirable Cousin Hebe and we had two different Dick Deadeyes. Frankie Telford was our sparkling narrator.

We started the season without a regular accompanist and were pleased that Stephen Lea was able to fill in at the beginning. On her return to Gloucester my daughter, Elizabeth, expressed an interest in accompanying and in fact has been with us from May until the end of the season.

For the November Concert we sang the four Coronation Anthems that Handel wrote for the 1727 Coronation of King George II and his Queen. With this we sang *St. Nicolas* by Benjamin Britten and the tenor soloist would also sing *Dies Natalis* by Gerald Finzi. The choir pieces could not have been much different in style and content. The Britten is an attractive work which I

very much hoped the Society would take to as they got to know it. The orchestral sound is very different because of the use of the percussion and the piano duet. We had a splendid concert which I thoroughly enjoyed conducting in front of a large, enthusiastic audience. The girls from Stroud High School under the direction of Delyth Mayhew, a former member of the Tyndale Choral Society sang so well and made very difficult music sound easy. I wrote to Delyth and her Headteacher to thank her and the girls.

One disappointing note was the amount of talking that some sopranos managed to do during moments of the concert when they were not singing. We must remember that we are on show the whole time during a concert. However, the choir looked very smart in their black blouses and skirts.

Thank you for your hard work throughout the season and thanks to the hard working committee without which my job would be very much harder. The work needed to turn a church into a concert hall is very demanding and many people rallied round to put everything straight at the end. The choir sang very well in both concerts and can congratulate on some very distinguished music making.

We tried very hard to find out the plans of the Dursley Round Table so we did not choose Bonfire Night for our concert but as it rained on the first Saturday in November the Fireworks was changed to the same night as our concert.

Nest Summer we will perform Vaughan-Williams *Five Mystical Songs* and the Brahms *Love Song Waltzes* in the first half and a concert performance of Julian Slade and Dorothy Reynolds' *Salad Days*. The Concert

will be in Wotton Parish Church on July 5* and we will sing Haydn's *Creation* on November 22nd. This avoids Bonfire Night and also a big concert on November 15 which Gloucester Choral are singing in Gloucester Cathedral and competes for orchestral players as well.

For the coming season we have secured the services of **James Corbett** as our accompanist. There will be a few dates to fill as he is already getting booked up. Elizabeth is happy to stand in on most of the dates that James is unavailable.

As I stated at the AGM., I have reluctantly decided that next season will be my last as conductor. Not just because of the many demands on my time through my work on the Gloucester City Council, but because a deteriorating eye condition makes it harder to read music from small full scores under concert conditions. I wish the committee well in their search for a new Conductor.

The new season promises to be an exciting one and I have been looking forward to it since the AGM. Thank you once again for last year's fine singing. Please be on the look out for new members especially tenors and basses. Bring them along with you to the first few rehearsals. New voices are the life blood of a Society like ours. We cannot go on without more members. Please help your hard working committee. There will probably be a very easy audition just to make sure I fit them into the right voice part.

I will see you on March 24th at our new venue at **Dursley Methodist Church**.

Michael Power

Chairman's Message

Welcome to our new season and the 43rd year of the Tyndale Choral Society.

For those of you who did not hear this at the AGM, this is to be the last season with Michael as our conductor. I feel that we must make this the best season yet as a tribute to Michael and all his hard work over the years. I think that I make this same plea every year, and I feel that I must do the same this year.

New members are essential to keep our society going. It is not very often that a new singer appears and says that they would like to join the society! It is up to each and every one of you to try your hardest to recruit new members.

We now have a **new rehearsal venue at Dursley Methodist Church** which is warm, and comfortable so I hope that this will go a little way to encouraging new members!

Please make every effort to welcome James Corbett – our new accompanist. He is a very good pianist and we look forward to him having a long association with the choir.

Finally, look out for any news of fund raising that we may be doing this season - there are a number of events being considered. We need every one to play their part as we did very little fund raising last year.

I look forward to seeing you all at the first rehearsal and I can't wait to start singing again..

Anne Shipton

CONCERT INFORMATION

SUMMER CONCERT

Saturday 5th July at 7.30pm
St Mary's, Wotton-under-Edge

V-Williams - 5 Mystical Songs
Brahms - Love Song Waltzes
Concert performance of Salad Days
Soloist: Philip Webb
Accompanist: Christopher Boodle

AUTUMN CONCERT

Saturday 22nd November at 7.30pm
St James' Parish Church Dursley
with the Tyndale Chamber Orchestra

Haydn's Creation

Concert rehearsals will be on the two Mondays before each of the concerts: 23rd and 30th June in Wotton Parish Church, and 10th and 17th November in Dursley Parish Church at 7.30pm. The rehearsal on the **morning** of the 5th July will be at 10.30am, and on the **afternoon** of 22nd November 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.

AGM: Dursley Town Hall at 7.30pm
(to be confirmed).

Know Your Committee

Kate Reeves became our Treasurer last year, so by now most should know who the tall young lady in the altos is. Here, she tells us something about her musical and other interests.

My name is Kate, I'm married to Alex, and we have lived in Dursley for 4 years. We have two children, Charlotte (6 in May) and Hannah (4 in April).

I think my love of singing is thanks to my mum, who has sung soprano in choral societies since I was small. It was compulsory for my sister and I to go to all her concerts, but we were allowed to take a book to read so we didn't complain. My dad didn't complain either, as he got an extra couple of hours sleep.

I have played the piano since I was 5, and the violin from junior school age. I played in orchestras throughout my school days, my sister and I taking over the viola section when we were in the sixth form. I went on two holiday courses with the Suffolk Schools Jubilee Choir. We sang *Carmina Burana* by Carl Orff one year, and then *Rio Grande* by Constant Lambert and *Messa di Gloria* by Puccini the following year. These two courses really gave me a taste for singing and the concert atmosphere which I loved.

I first sang in a choral society at university in Newcastle. I met Alex

there (up a church tower bell-ringing), and then he was told to attend my concerts. Among other works, we sang Rutter's *Requiem*, *The Creation* by Haydn and Britten's *Ceremony of Carols*.

I now teach the piano, and enjoy teaching the more mature student - they are often more dedicated and do their practice! Last year I also taught myself and passed Grade 8 theory.

My elder daughter Charlotte is autistic and loves listening to music. It is a brilliant way to calm and relax her, and never fails to work. She can sit quite entranced, almost oblivious to whatever else is going on around her. Her favourite piece is the *William Tell* overture by Rossini, though she also likes Tom Jones, Madonna and Robbie Williams. So we often play music at home, and Charlotte runs over to turn the volume up as loud as possible and then runs away, screeching, jumping up and down, looking very cheeky. Hannah hates this, and so probably do the neighbours, so we have about ten minutes of the volume button going up and down until someone gives in.

Critique of the
**Autumn Concert in Dursley Parish Church
on 9th November 2002**

FINE PERFORMANCE

The substantial audience present in Dursley Parish Church last Saturday enjoyed a very fine Concert given by the Tyndale Choral Society.

Conducting both them and the excellent Tyndale Chamber Orchestra, Michael Power produced a degree of cohesion and balance between orchestra and chorus that is but rarely achieved on such occasions.

Fittingly, for a jubilee concert, they began with three of Handel's Coronation anthems. A beautiful tone has always been the hallmark of this choir and this was at once evident. The choir was confident in all their entries and most sympathetically accompanied by the orchestra.

In a thoughtful piece of programming, part of Gerald Finzi's mystical and reflective *Dies Natalis* was introduced ahead of the exuberance of *Zadok the Priest*. Tenor soloist Stephen Davis supported by the shimmering strings of the orchestra left us wanting more of this quintessentially English piece.

The second half was given over to Benjamin Britten's cantata *St. Nicolas*. This is a youthful work, written for a school and telling the story of a young church still familiar with miracles and legends. The Tyndale Choir was supported by the choir of Stroud High School for Girls and three sweet-voiced choirboys sang the once pickled but now miraculously revived boys.

Two pianists, organ and a wealth of percussion augmented the orchestra, which did excellent justice to Britten's lively score while Stephen Davis proved a sensitive *St. Nicolas*. Marshalling these forces well, Michael Power conducted a performance full of innocence and joy, as Britten most certainly wanted, with some moments of deep emotion, lack of dynamic range from both choir and soloist being the only criticism.

This was a good concert. An appealing programme, within the scope of the performers and which they had mastered through diligent practice. It made for a very happy audience.

Diary Dates and Other Matters ...

Committee Meetings

There was pre-season meeting at the end of January at which a number of matters were considered including fundraising (see below). Other meetings are planned for 8th April, 14th May, 11th September and 8th October. If there are matters which you want to be considered or raised, please see members of the committee in good time.

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, Angela Sinton so that they 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 £37 if paid before 19th May otherwise £38 (see card) and £18.50 (or £19.00 after 19th 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:

We did very little fundraising last year as our main event had to be cancelled because of lack of support by other groups. A number of events are being considered for this year, including a Jumble Sale at Cam Memorial Hall early in the season. We are also hoping to participate in the Dursley Goodwill Event in the summer and the possibility of having a fundraising Christmas concert is being considered. Bear these in mind. More information on these will come later.

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. Jacqueline Hill) with offers of assistance - *they can't do it all on their own.*

Thursday 27th November - **Annual General Meeting** in the Town Hall, Dursley at 7.30pm (to be confirmed).

On a less serious note

Church Bulletins:-

1. Don't let worry kill you - let the church help
2. Thursday night - Potluck Supper.
Prayer and medication to follow.
3. This afternoon there will be a meeting in the South and North ends of the church. Children will be baptised at both ends.
4. At the evening service tonight, the sermon will be "What is Hell"? Come early and listen to our choir practice.
5. On Thursday there will be a meeting of the Little Mothers Club. All ladies wishing to be Little Mothers should meet with the pastor in his study.

CONTRIBUTIONS!

We would like to include contributions from members! 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).

NOTICE BOARD

Oriana Singers

Conductor David Moss

**Mozart Solemn Vespers
Vaughan Williams - Toward the Unknown Region
Finzi - Lo the Full Final Sacrifice**

with

**Julie Kench - soprano
Colin Druce - organ**

on

**Saturday 29th March 2003
at 7.30pm**

**Parish Church of St Mary
Wotton-under-Edge**

Amberley Chamber Choir

Conductor Harry Lyall

**A Concert of Sacred Music from
the 16th to the 21st Century
with Oliver Lomberg (organ)**

**Saturday 8th March 2003 at 7.30pm
St Nicholas Church Standish**

Programmes £4 (under 16s free)