



Tyndale Choral Society

# Newsletter

No.23

Spring  
2005

## Conductor's Notes ....

Hello there again! Can it really be a year since I wrote those first two words? It was an immensely enjoyable year for me, with some fine singing from everyone. I hope the mixture of standard repertoire (Vivaldi, and perhaps *Hiawatha's Wedding Feast*) and new or rarer (my *Jubilate*, the Handel and *Hiawatha's Departure*) appealed to most of you. Certainly, I was pleased with the reaction at rehearsals. That is probably just as well as we spend 95% of our time together rehearsing!

It was an added joy for me to get in front of a splendid orchestra for *Hiawatha*. Of course, we cannot afford to do that very often, but please accept my thanks that we did it in my first season. Finally, the Christmas Carols at Amberley provided a lovely occasion to end the season. Once again, I do thank James Corbett for all his great help and dextrous fingers, Doreen Manning for getting us music to sing, and

Anne Shipton and your Committee for great support.

Now, I look forward to a new season. For July, I have tried to put together a lighter sort of programme for St. Mary's, Wotton-under-Edge. The folksong arrangements of Percy Grainger may be unfamiliar (apart from the *Londonderry Air* we tried out last year) but they are quite challenging, as are the five *Birthday Madrigals* of John Rutter. These were written for our neighbours in Cheltenham to mark the 75th birthday of George Shearing, so get those syncopations all lined up!

Because of the demands of Grainger and Rutter, I have tried to make the garland of Richard Rodgers' songs I am putting together very straightforward. There will be several short solos for all voices, so I hope all budding Howard Keels and Julie Andrews will step forward. I'm sure the hills will be alive to the sound of something, mornings beautiful and evenings enchanted, and romance doesn't have to have a

moon in the sky (Now what show is **that** from?) for twenty minutes or so.

I suppose the only repertoire piece in the season is Haydn's great *Nelson Mass* for November; it is still very stirring. The *Pastoral* of Arthur Bliss will, I imagine, be new to most of you, but it is not very difficult, with one of the most melting conclusions of any twentieth-century work.

Let's have an enjoyable season together!

Ian

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On a lighter note, perhaps!?

*An old chestnut among orchestral players is the one about the trombone player who at the end of rehearsals shut a fly in his music copy. Coming to the smudge the next time he had to play that particular passage, the trombonist ran down the scale, and afterwards said: 'I don't know what the big note was, but I played it'. Hearing this story, W S Gilbert asked: 'Are you sure it was a fly? It might have been a bee flat'.*

*Taken from Classic FM Musical Anecdotes by Henry Kelly and John Foley*

## CONCERT INFORMATION

### SUMMER CONCERT

**Saturday 16th July** at 7.30pm  
St Mary's, Wotton-under-Edge

*Percy Grainger~Folk Song arrangements*  
*Rutter~Birthday Madrigals*  
*Richard Rodgers arr Harrold ~ 'With a Song in my Heart'*  
*with James Corbett (piano)*

### AUTUMN CONCERT

**Saturday 12th November** at 7.30pm  
St James' Parish Church Dursley  
with the Tyndale Sinfonia

*Haydn ~ Missa in Angustiis*  
*(Nelson Mass)*  
*Bliss ~ Pastoral (Lie strewn the white rocks)*

Concert rehearsals will be on the Mondays before each of the concerts: 11th July in Wotton Parish Church, and 31st October and 7th November in Dursley Parish Church at 7.30pm. The rehearsal on the 16th July will be at 2.30pm, and on the 12th November will be at 2.30pm.

### Dress:

**Ladies:** Long black skirt and long-sleeved white blouse (black blouse for Winter concert).

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

**AGM:** Wed 23rd November at Dursley Parish Centre at 7.30pm.

## From the chairman....

**Dear Friends,**

I was looking back to see what I had written to you all in 2000 as that was my first year as Chairman. This was the year that we sang 'The Cotswolds' by John Sanders. Sadly, John Sanders died after being our President for only a short time but it made me think how lucky we have been during 45 years of singing to have benefited from the experience of some great musicians. And the tradition continues!

I am really looking forward to our new season as I hope you all are. With more exciting music to learn I know we are going to have a great year. Please tell all your singing friends who don't already sing with Tyndale what a great time we have and persuade them to come and join us.

You will be hearing more about how we are going to celebrate our 45th season following our first rehearsal. The committee has discussed a garden party and I am sure there will be lots more suggestions. If you have any good ideas, please let one of the committee know.

This season of 2005 must sadly be my last as chairman. I have really enjoyed being your chairman but I feel that it is time for me to stand down now and hand the reins over to someone else. It would be good if one of you would come forward before the end of the season so that they could see what the job entails, prior to taking over for the 2006 season. Is this something you could do? Please think about it very carefully.

I look forward to singing with you all again soon.

Anne

### ***Friends of the Society***

Do you know of any past choir members or regular supporters of our concerts who might like to continue their link with the choir by becoming *Friends*? If so please speak to them about becoming a Friend and see Frances Neale at choir or ring 543888 for an introductory letter. Patrons donate a minimum of £25 to the Society and in return receive two complimentary tickets for each of our two main concerts. They can use the reserved seating at the rear of the church, and their contribution is appreciated by the printing of their names in the concert programme. Please give this some thought as it is a good way to maintain interest in the Society for those who are not able to sing at present and provides guaranteed ticket income.

### **Thank you!**

**May I thank those members of TCS who kindly sang at my late mother's Thanksgiving service. She was always keen to support my musical activities and I think she would have been proud of the choir at her last visit to church. I certainly was.**

Ian

## Critique of the Autumn Concert in St James' Church on 13th November 2004

I can remember when, between the wars, the annual production of Samuel Coleridge-Taylor's "Hiawatha" regularly filled the Albert Hall, in London. The dynamic and exciting "Hiawatha's Wedding Feast" in 1898 was the first of the trilogy followed by "The Death of Minnehaha" (1899) and "Hiawatha's Departure" (1900). This evening's concert consisted of the first and third parts of this trilogy. The publishers paid 15 guineas (£15.75) for "Hiawatha", made colossal profits, but on Coleridge-Taylor's early death in 1912 (aged 37) refused to grant his widow a fair royalty. This resulted in the formation of the Performing Rights Society in 1914.

The Hiawatha of Longfellow's poem, completed in 1855 and consisting of 5,314 lines, bears no relationship to the historical figure of that name but paints a broad canvas of Indian life around the Great Lakes in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

The Tyndale Choir was supported by Elizabeth Warriner, soprano, Stephen Davis, tenor, and Christopher Monk, bass-baritone. together with the Tyndale Sinfonia conducted by its Musical Director, Ian

Harrold. Part one of the concert was "Hiawatha's Wedding Feast" - above, I have used the word 'exciting', and the Choir sustained that excitement throughout, resting awhile whilst we enjoyed the 'accents sweet and tender' of the gentle Chibiabos brought to us in the voice of Stephen Davis and the charm of the haunting "Onaway, Awake beloved".

Part two was the less well-known "Hiawatha's Departure" – a combination of sadness at his departure and the joy of his revelations – arrival of the paleface strangers – 'Listen to the truth they tell you'. The choir responded well to this different and, perhaps, more difficult phase until Hiawatha 'departed in the sunset'. Christopher Monk, with the Black-robbed Chief by Stephen Davis, ably personified Hiawatha.

I am sure that everyone attending this Concert left with a sense of satisfaction and enjoyment. The Musical Director, Ian Harrold, must be congratulated. My only criticism, shared by others, was that the sheer volume of the orchestra tended frequently to overwhelm the Choir.

Ron Skinner

## Some comments from the NMFS Visitor's report:

A brave choice to perform two of the trilogy from Hiawatha which I have not sung, or heard sung, for many years now. *The Wedding Feast* is rightly better known than the *Departure*. To get over the difficulty of setting to music the constant repetition of regular trochaic lines, Coleridge Taylor injected over much colour into the orchestral 'accompaniment' and scored the work for a large orchestra (expensive for the Choral Society?). The choir did well within the limited space to attempt to sing above this huge range of orchestral sound.

Stephen Davis, with his light tenor and clear diction, was the best of the soloists. My impression of Christopher Monk was that he is a good solid choral singer but not soloist material. His vowel sounds need working on. Elizabeth Warriner has a bright, lyrical voice but, because she forced her entries, she was, unfortunately, never in the middle of the notes.

He also welcomed the presence of the .young people in the audience.

Comments on the choir included bright positive singing; the need more men for balance; the all important diction was not always heard clearly above the orchestra. He also noted that whilst the orchestra was very professional throughout, there were inevitably times when it was too loud for the choir.

## THE YOUNG PERSON'S GUIDE TO THE SATB CHOIR

A further sample from the article supplied by Brian Neale.

THE ALTOS are the salt of the earth - in their opinion, at least. Altos are unassuming people, who would wear jeans to concerts if they were allowed to. Altos are in a unique position in the chorus in that they are unable to complain about having to sing either very high or very low, and they know that all the other sections think their parts are pitifully easy. But the altos know otherwise. They know that while the sopranos are screeching away on a high A, they are being forced to sing elaborate passages full of sharps and flats and tricks of rhythm, and nobody is noticing because the sopranos are singing too loud (and the basses usually are too). Altos get a deep, secret pleasure out of conspiring together to tune the sopranos flat. Altos have an innate distrust of tenors, because the tenors sing in almost the same range and think they sound better. They like the basses, and enjoy singing duets with them - the basses just sound like a rumble anyway, and it's the only time the altos can really be heard. Altos' other complaint is that there are always too many of them and so they never get to sing really loud.

*Editor: Comments about the tenors and Basses will come in due course!!*

## **Diary Dates and Other Matters ...**

### **Committee Meetings**

Meetings are planned for 20th April, 19th July, 22nd September. 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, Julia O'Connor Beach, so that she can welcome them and take their details.

**Subscriptions:** Please pay early in the season. The rate will be £39 up to 23rd May otherwise £40 (see card) and £19.50 (or £20.00 after 23rd 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, Lorna Lane (alto) will be happy to provide details.

### **Fund Raising:**

Principal events will be:

**14th May:** Cake Stall - Dursley

12th June: Town Hall teas, Wotton-under-Edge.

**25th June:** ABC Regal Cinema, Cromhall - film and supper (details to come).

A further fundraising **Christmas concert** is also planned.

Bear these in mind. More information on these will come later.

**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 12th November** - help will be needed to erect and dismantle staging so please contact the Concert Manager (Catherine Bennett) and Assistant (Jacquelin Hill) with offers of assistance - *they need your help once again!*

**Wednesday 23rd November** - **Annual General Meeting** in the Parish Centre, Dursley at 7.30pm.

## Membership

This is the current membership list held by the Secretary.  
If your name does not appear below, please advise the Secretary of your details  
so that our records can be kept up to date.

**Sopranos**

Fiona Chandler  
Mavis Church  
Glenys Ewer  
Anne French  
Barbara Garnham  
Anne Glanville  
Clare Harrison  
Susan Hollins  
*Lynette Magnone*  
*Doreen Manning L*  
Marion Miller  
Kathryn Palmer  
Angela Pendlebury  
*Anne Shipton Ch*  
Valerie Skinner  
Claire Smallbridge  
Judith Taylor  
Joyce Theaker  
Lesley Townsend  
*Sandra Tucker*  
Ros Wakefield  
Vanessa Weaver  
Elaine White  
Elizabeth Young

**Altos**

*C Bennett*  
*Jill Brown*  
Jenny Coles  
Gill Dickinson  
Kate Delaney  
Katie Emsley  
Sheila Fitzarthur  
Betty Hebditch  
*Jacquelin Hill*  
Wenna Hillis  
Elspeth James  
Sally Lamerton  
*Lorna Lane Tr*  
Jennie Leighton  
*Francis Neale*  
Anne Nuttall  
*Julia O'Connor Beach Sec*  
Lisa Randell  
Kate Reeves  
Wendy Richardson  
Miriam Salman  
Angela Sinton  
Eve Tudgay  
Sue Wagner  
Sue Walshaw  
Leslie Wrangmore

**Tenors**

Rev Phil Butcher  
John Ewer  
Bill Emsley  
Peter Harney  
*Audrey Sewell*  
John Taylor  
Andrew Young

**Basses**

Brian Bolsher  
Mike Chambers  
Alan Garnham  
John Hicks  
Brian Kitching  
Derek Manning  
Brian Neale  
Tim Page  
John Palmer  
Dick Skinner \*  
Geoff Whiley

Names in *italics* - *committee members*:

*Ch* - *Chairman*: *Sec* - *Secretary*: *Tr* - *Treasurer*: *L* - *Librarian*

\* Editor

# NOTICE BOARD

 **Oriana Singers**

*Conductor David Moss*

## ***Resounding Brass***

*with*

**Bristol Brass Consort**  
including works by  
**Gabrieli, Stanford and Britten**

**Saturday 19th March 2005 at 7.30pm**  
**Dursley Parish Church**

**Tickets: £7, £6 concessions**

## ***Amberley Chamber Choir***

Conductor Harry Lyall  
with Oliver Lomberg (organ)

## **A Recital of Sacred Music**

Including works by  
Byrd, Lassus, Palestrina and Victoria

**Saturday 2nd April 2005 at 7.30pm**  
**St Nicholas Church Standish**

**Programmes £4 (under 16s free) at the door**