



Newsletter

No.25

Spring
2006

Tyndale Choral Society

Conductor's Notes

Hello again! I hope you have enjoyed the other pleasures that Monday nights offer during our closed season. I know several of you keep up the good work with the Oriana Singers, and others with other groups; I have to say I become very knowledgeable about Coronation Street!

For me, it is always a useful time to reflect on the successes and the lessons to be learnt from the past season, while looking forward and preparing for the next. I believe last season was, overall, a successful one. A splendid audience supported us for our Summer Concert in Wotton-under-Edge, and they were not disappointed with our Grainger folk songs and Rutter's Birthday Madrigals, even though we found them a challenge. Anyway, they could leave humming the songs of Richard Rodgers, to which we brought a fine sense of style and enjoyment. Given the problems I encountered with clearing copyright for them, it

was great to hear them so well done. I should add a word of thanks to our Clarinet Ladies, who balanced the programme admirably.

I knew the Bliss Pastoral would be new to most members, but hoped that you would come to like it as I have over the years. Whether you did or not, the final performance was stunning, attested to by audience, soloists and orchestra alike. The Haydn Nelson Mass went with the real sense of urgency that it needs, and the choir were right there helping me drive it forward. Thank you all for that evening. It was just a pity that we didn't seem able to sell the concert as well as we had hoped. Finally, carols at Amberley were as enjoyable as ever. I think we shall be hearing 'Ring out wild bells' again!

So we look forward to a new season. 'A Tribute to Gloucester Cathedral' will enable us to look at several short works by Organists from that august

place. As I write, the final programme will be:

Herbert Brewer: Evening service in E flat, O love most wonderful! (Emmaus)

Herbert Sumsion: They that go down to the sea in ships, By the waters of Babylon, Fear not O land

John Sanders: My Beloved spake, Mandatum novum

David Briggs: Jubilate Deo

I imagine those of you who sing in church choirs will know the first of each of these, but the others will provide something new to discover. It will be fascinating to follow our local cathedral's music as it proceeds through the twentieth century.

As you know, I had hoped we would put on Elgar's *King Olaf* in the autumn. For financial reasons, we have put that back for a year. The Elgar Society, who were going to support us, have been very helpful and will do so still, with further promotion in what will be Sir Edward's 150th anniversary celebrations. At least we are in early for that one!

We shall now perform Elgar's sombre *For the Fallen* from *The Spirit of England*, and Mozart's *Requiem*. The Elgar sets words by Lawrence Binyon, which include the well-known 'They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old...', which will have a certain resonance as the concert is on November 11th.

This year will not be short of performances of the Mozart Requiem!

Ours will, I hope, be a bit different. As you probably know, the Requiem was incomplete when Mozart died. His widow, Constanze, fearful of having to return the commission money already paid, arranged for its completion, initially by Joseph Eybler, then by Franz Xaver Süssmayr (when Eybler found the task too overwhelming). Süssmayr's version has remained the standard for nearly two and a half centuries, which speaks something for its value. But it is not entirely satisfactory. Of the other completions I have come across, the one by Robert Levin seems to me the most convincing. It retains much of Süssmayr, who, let's remember, had been with Mozart a few hours before his death, but extends considerably here and there. So, there will be much that is familiar to those who know the work well, but also something new to get your teeth into.

I hope you will support our big fundraising venture at the end of September - the Choral Workshop. It is a chance to sing two great war-horses of the romantic repertoire, Parry's 'Blest Pair of Sirens' and the Brahms' 'Requiem' without lots of rehearsal, and which could do a lot for our public relations. Watch this space!

Goodness, what a ramble! Let's have a great 2006 season together.

Ian

From the chairman....

Dear Friends,

It was with considerable reluctance that I offered to step into Anne Shipton's shoes, as your Chairman. I am very aware of the challenge in following the splendid, devoted work that she did, but try I will with your help and advice.

As always, we need to encourage any friends and neighbours who enjoy singing, to come along and share our music.

This season, our summer concert will be devoted to the music of Gloucester Cathedral organists. This is, to my knowledge, the first time we have had a programme involving several 'local' composers, and I am sure that, under Ian's patient guidance, we will find music to enjoy. In the autumn, we were going to sing part of Elgar's oratorio King Olaf. As noted by Ian, this has had to be replaced with the Mozart *Requiem* and *For the fallen* by Elgar. I hope everyone will be happy with this change to the programme

Pleasing everyone with these choices may not be to all our tastes simultaneously but we need, every one of us, to give the mutual support that will make our concerts and our choir successful. If you have definite opinions or ideas for future programmes, please put your suggestions to Ian, Julia and myself or any members of the Music Focus Group.

May I wish you all a happy and successful new year in every aspect of your life.

John Ewer

CONCERT INFORMATION

SUMMER CONCERT

Saturday 1st July at 7.30pm at St Mary's, Wotton-under-Edge

A Tribute to Gloucester Cathedral

AUTUMN CONCERT

Saturday 11th November at 7.30pm St James' Parish Church Dursley with the Tyndale Sinfonia

Mozart : Requiem Elgar: For the Fallen

Concert rehearsals will be on the Mondays before each of the concerts, 26th June in Wotton Parish Church, and 30th October and 6th November in Dursley Parish Church at 7.30pm. The rehearsals in church on the 1st July and on the 11th 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 22nd November at Dursley Parish Centre at 7.30pm.

From your Secretary

I do hope that you will share my excitement and enthusiasm for the coming season with Tyndale – I am looking forward to it immensely, both musically and socially.

The most exciting development I have to tell you about is our fantastic website (<http://www.tyndale-choral-society.org>), created and managed by John Hicks (bass), which will be a point of reference for existing members and, we hope, a good way of promoting the TCS to the outside world. John hopes that it will also generate some income: if anyone accesses the online retailers Amazon or Musicroom via our website fundraising page and makes a purchase, then TCS will receive a small commission – at no extra cost to the purchaser. Please pass on this information to your family and friends.

Some of the suggestions made in the Membership Survey 2005 have already been taken up by the committee in its planning for the coming year, and no doubt it will prove to be a useful source of ideas for some time to come. A copy of the results will be on the noticeboard for you to peruse – it makes fascinating reading.

To encourage some younger people to join us, Anne Shipton is working on an

Apprenticeship Scheme, which we hope to get up and running this year.

Amongst the various planned activities for 2006, I do hope that you will find something to your taste, which you will feel able to support.

So far, we have the Dursley Cake Stall, another Cinema Supper, Wotton Town Hall Teas, brain-teasing quizzes, and the most exciting project of all – a workshop and performance day when Ian will take us (and anyone who cares to join us) through Brahms Requiem. The workshop is the most appropriate way for us to raise funds, as it fulfils the TCS stated objective- to bring music to the public. Its success, both financial and artistic, will depend on the full support of the TCS membership, so put it in your diary, and start spreading the word!

Just one last plea – I HATE to nag you at rehearsals, so please lend an ear to announcements and do your level best to co-operate with any requests. And PLEASE complete the registers! I thank you!

Also take a look at the details of the TCS Choral **WORKSHOP** on the next page!

Let's have a cracking year -

Julia O'Connor-Beach

Choral Workshop: *Sing! Brahms Requiem*

Picking up on suggestions from the membership survey, we will be running a workshop and performance day on 30th September, at St James the Great, Dursley.

We will rehearse/workshop *Brahms Requiem* and Parry's '*Blest Pair of Sirens*' from 1-5pm with a coffee break, and perform both pieces in the evening at 7.30pm. The cost to singers will be £10, to include tea/coffee and cake. The music can be hired for £2.

For those not wishing to drive home after the rehearsal, a simple buffet supper will be available (£4) – this must be booked in advance.

Ian will be our conductor and Christopher Boodle will accompany us on the piano at the rehearsal and on the organ at the evening performance. We are hoping to invite young singers to take the soprano and baritone solos.

There will be no entrance charge to the audience for the evening performance, but a retiring collection will be made. It is hoped that this will encourage those who have not yet attended a classical concert to take the plunge.

This event ticks a lot of boxes: it should encourage participation in music-making, give a wide audience an opportunity to attend a live performance with no worries about ticket prices, raise the profile of the Society, be a pleasant social event, and (if all goes well – which it must!) generate funds to help TCS in its work.

ALL are welcome – it promises to be a great sing and a deal of fun. Needless to say, without the *full and active support of members*, it can't be done. So, put a ring round 30th September in your diaries, and start spreading the word amongst your friends and relatives – don't leave it until they have something else booked!

Booking forms are to be found on the website (tyndale-choral-society.org) and are available from the Secretary.

Let's make it a fantastic day!

Julia

Diary Dates and Other Matters ...

Committee Meetings

Meetings are planned for Wed 19th April and Wed 13th 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 £40 up to 23rd May otherwise £41 (see card) and £20.00 (or £20.50 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:

Saturday 13th May:Dursley Cake Stall.

Saturday 17th June: ABC Regal Cinema, Cromhall - film and supper (details to come).

Sunday 23rd July:Town Hall teas, Wotton-under-Edge.

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

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

Sales Stall: As ever, 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 11th November - help will be needed to erect and dismantle staging so please contact the Concert Manager (Catherine Bennett) with offers of assistance.

Wednesday 22nd November - *Annual General Meeting* in the Parish Centre, Dursley at 7.30pm.

Open Rehearsals

Building on the success of our 'taster evenings' last year, there will be 'Open Rehearsals' again on 3 April and 4 September. Please do encourage singers to join us for the evening, to see what a great bunch we are and please do make them feel welcome!

Music Focus Group

Prompted by the discussion at the AGM, the committee has agreed to invite each voice section to nominate its representative to serve with the MFG each year, with Ian, your Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary. The MFG meets just once a year, normally in July, to discuss the options for the following year's concert programmes. An announcement will be made at rehearsal in due course.

Committee members:

John Ewer	Chairman
Lorna Lane	Treasurer
Julia O'Connor-Beach	Secretary
Catherine Bennett	Concert Manager
Lynette Magnone	Concert Secretary
Sandra Tucker	Fundraising Coordinator
Jill Brown	Publicity and Printing
Frances Neale	Patrons Secretary
Ian Harrold	Conductor
Doreen Manning	Librarian
Audrey Sewell	NFMS Secretary

Getting to know you!

As a further part of the occasional series to inform you about the members of the committee and their musical interests, our Treasurer, Lorna Lane has agreed to write a few words about herself.

Well, like our Secretary, I too was born sometime in the 20th century – in Nottingham. Nottingham-city of lace, tobacco, bicycles and - Boots Pure Drug Co. and Robin Hood. Today it's still near the top of the list of cities for drugs and crime!

At junior school I followed my older "well behaved, decent singing voiced, goodie goodie" sister. Teachers told me that "with a voice like that" I would never get into the school choir and why couldn't I behave like my big sister? What bliss when, at 11, I attended a different senior school, still croaked at the singing, but didn't have to live up to a superior sister. It wasn't until my late teens, on joining the church youth choir and, later on, the Church choir, that I found singing 'alto was a much more pleasurable pastime.

Music at school tended to be on the classical side, particularly opera, and after school, I suppose classical, religious and the odd bit of popular music (don't think I've ever bought a pop record for myself!). I was fortunate in that the next door neighbour, who was my age, was also keen on opera and we used to queue for hours for cheap seats in the 'gods' at the local Theatre Royal. In my late twenties I particularly enjoyed chamber music, finding that, for me, there was just as much in a quartet as in an orchestral piece.

On leaving school, I went into banking, but in the late seventies, for something completely different, came down to Duntisbourne Abbots to, jointly, manage the Youth Hostel there. It was at that time that I joined Cirencester Choral Society. Singing in a large choir with an orchestra was something quite new to me. In 1990, I joined a small choir of approx. 16 (the "B" team for the parish church when the all male choir was on holiday). For the first couple of months with them, the rehearsal venue had no piano so rehearsals were unaccompanied - marvellous practise for sight reading and listening to what's going on in the other parts!

I moved to Cam in 1996, joined Tyndale but kept in touch with Cirencester Choral and on moving back to Cirencester rejoined Cirencester Choral, so now belong to the two Societies – keeps me off the street corners at night!

I've always loved classical music, starting with, I suppose, Mozart and progressing to much more modern composers. I enjoy opera, particularly Wagner and Richard Strauss and I think, if pushed, must admit that I prefer German and more northern composers to French and Italian.

Tim and I, belong to Cheltenham Music Society, where we have 8 or 9 chamber concerts, often with young, up and coming Artistes, over Autumn, Winter and Spring. We also love going to Symphony Hall, where the music often tends to be well known, but will include one piece of little known, or new music. A good way of getting used to modern or difficult composers.

Critique of the Autumn Concert in St James' Church on 12th November 2005

The Tyndale Choir Concert given in St James' Church, Dursley, on Saturday, 12th November 2005, opened with a work by Sir Arthur Bliss, which he dedicated to Sir Edward Elgar. Bliss studied under Vaughan Williams and Holst and, in the Great War was wounded in the Battle of the Somme and gassed at Cambrai. His war experiences and the loss of his brother in the war are reflected in his choral symphony, 'Morning Heroes'.

The present work, *Pastoral*, is sub-titled, Lie strewn the White Flocks, and its inspiration goes back to a visit to Sicily in 1928. It is a setting of a number of rural texts ranging from Theocritus in the 3rd century B.C. to Bliss's contemporary, Robert Nichols, in the 20th and, in his acceptance of the dedication, Elgar wrote; "I like it exceedingly". Elgar would, I am sure, have repeated those words had he heard the Tyndale Choir's performance in St. James' on Saturday.

The work was joyously performed by the whole choir; Debra Blake, mezzo-soprano, giving a beautiful interpretation of the *Pigeon Song* backed ably by the flute of Nicky King. The orchestra blended with the choir to give a finely integrated performance.

The second part of the concert was devoted to Haydn - it seems right and proper that the Tyndale Choir's offering in this bicentenary year of Trafalgar should include Josef Haydn's *Nelson Mass* although it had little or nothing to

do with Nelson himself. The Battle of the Nile took place in 1798, whilst Haydn was composing the Mass, and, subsequently, Haydn met Nelson and Emma Hamilton when they visited the Esterhazy household in Vienna in 1800 - thence the connection and the accepted name. Haydn himself entitled the work *Missa in Angustiis*, which means "Mass in difficult or painful times" - a mass for times of distress. This seems to me a misnomer, as the work is ebullient and full of optimism - a feeling positively conveyed by the excellent performance of the choir. The soloists were not to be faulted, introduced by the bell-like clarity of Tina Powers's soprano voice in the Kyrie. Christopher Monk, remembered from his excellence in *Hiawatha* last year, gave us a bass-baritone treat with the *Qui Tollis*. The mezzo-soprano contribution by Debra Blake maintained this high standard, as did that of the tenor, Patrick Briddon throughout.

An excellent concert in which I was impressed by the blending of the voices, the atmosphere of enjoyment and a good, well directed orchestra, which did not overwhelm the choir. The Tyndale Sinfonia and its Musical Director are to be congratulated.

I am sure that everyone attending this Concert left with a sense of fulfilment and congratulations are due to all who took part.

Ron Skinner

Yvonne Dyball

1917 - 2005

The funeral of Yvonne Dyball took place in St Mary's in Wotton-under-Edge on Friday 30th December, 2005 and she was buried in Hillesley where her husband had been the Rector. Some of you may have known her and a number of members of the Society attended the service. She had two children, Tom, and Cathy who died just a few years ago.

Her son, Tom, spoke of her early life. Her own Mother died of consumption when Yvonne was 2 years old and she was brought up by two maiden aunts who started her on her musical career. She studied music on a scholarship at St Hugh's College, Oxford and was the first lady chair of the Oxford University Music Society. After graduating, her first appointment was at Roedean in Sussex where she taught for 10 years before her marriage.

After her husband's death she moved to Wotton-under-Edge and was very involved with St Mary's and the musical life of the area. She also taught at KLB School prior to her retirement. Being an accomplished singer and pianist, her abilities were much appreciated. She sang with Tyndale Choral Society and also with Oriana Singers under David Austin's leadership from the very beginning. As well as being the assistant conductor to the Society, she would also accompany whenever needed. She was still coming to many of the Society's concerts until quite recently. Eleven years ago Doug Hobbs formed the the Wotton Chamber Music Group which met at her house where she gave them much encouragement. She was even playing the organ at Perry and Dawes Chapel and at Horsley Church right up to the time she was admitted to hospital.

Yvonne was a very warm, friendly person and will be greatly missed.

Membership

Sopranos

Fiona Chandler
Mavis Church
Jenni Culverwell Glenis
Ewer
Anne Glanville
Clare Harrison Marjorie
Harrison Lesley Hewish
Diana Hobbs
Mary Ann Laybourne
Lynette Magnone
Doreen Manning *L*
Marion Miller
Kathryn Palmer
Angela Pendlebury
Anne Shipton
Valerie Skinner
Claire Smallridge
Judith Taylor
Joyce Theaker
Lesley Townsend
Sandra Tucker
Ros Wakefield
Elaine White
Vanessa Weaver
Elizabeth Young

Altos

Catherine Bennett
Jill Brown
Jenny Coles
Gill Dickinson
Kate Delaney
Sheila Fitzarthur
Betty Hebditch
Jacquelin Hill
Wenna Hills
Estelle James
Sally Lamerton
Lorna Lane *Tr*
Caroline Marshall
Francis Neale
Anne Nuttall
Julia O'Connor Beach *Sec*
Lisa Randell
Kate Reeves
Helen Roberts
Susanna Simm
Wendy Richardson
Miriam Salman
Miriam Tait
Eve Tudgay
Sue Walshaw
Jean Williams
Lesley Wrankmore

Tenors

Rev Philip Butcher
Jean Dabinett
Bill Emsley
John Ewer *Ch*
Peter Harney
Audrey Sewell
Andrew Young

Basses

Brian Bolsher
Mike Chambers
John Hicks
Brian Kitching
Derek Manning
Brian Neale
Tim Page
John Palmer
Dick Skinner *
Rob Williams
Geoff Whiley

Names in *italics* - committee members:

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

NOTICE BOARD

Oriana Singers

Conductor David Moss

From Darkness into Light *with* **Severn Strings**

Missa Brevis in Bflat by Mozart
works by Bach and Handel

Saturday 25th March 2006 at 7.30pm
Dursley Parish Church

Tickets: £8, £7 concessions

Amberley Chamber Choir

Conductor Harry Lyall
with David Collins (organ)

Five Centuries of **Sacred Music**

Saturday 1st April 2006 at 7.30pm
St Nicholas Church Standish

Programmes £5 (under 16s free) at the door
(includes light refreshments in interval).