



Conductor's Notes

The torrents in summer have receded, water flows through the tap again, almost drinkable, and my hall looks like the bottled water aisle at Tesco, so it must be the summer break. It has been a useful time to appraise how much water even a single person can waste; I wonder how long my conservation instincts will last! Several members kindly offered help to escape the Third World enclave that was Gloucester and Tewkesbury. May I offer my thanks to all who did, especially to those I took up.

My thanks too, on a musical level, for the wonderful singing in our Summer Concert. Others have commented from a listener's point of view, and I am sure you will read those comments elsewhere. From the conductor's rostrum, I felt everyone contributed well throughout a wide-ranging concert. The Serenade to Music asks a lot of the chorus if they are to emulate the soloists for

whom the piece was written. Maybe we did not always succeed, but it was evident that each section was committed to trying its best. The Tippett spirituals are not as easy to bring off as the composer seems to suggest in his commentary, but I think we managed to with distinction; a particular thank you to our soloists.

And the Irish half? My two little ballad arrangements presented no real technical problems to you, but they still needed singing with conviction. This they received.

I am sure there were many of you who wondered if 'Phaudrig Crohoore' was going to be worth all the effort we had put into rehearsing it; even I can hardly hold it up as a great choral masterpiece! But that is not the point; on its own terms, it can move and excite, and I was delighted in the way we managed to do both, thanks in no small way

to the excellent diction (something you will need to keep up in King Olaf!). 'The Rhythm of Life' was a crowd-pleaser to send our decent audience away satisfied.

Now we must look forward to an exciting series of events. The Fauré/Handel workshop in September will be an enjoyable chance to showcase the Society in a more informal way, to welcome back old friends and to make new ones. We do need as many of you as possible to be with us, especially as you will be in the smugly superior position of knowing the Handel!

Then, King Olaf. Rehearsals have gone very well so far, but you will have seen how many notes there are in the piece to conquer. It will need all your musical skill (and your attendance!) to bring it off properly, but I look forward to doing so.

It will be lovely to see Amberley reinstated this year. As before, the music will be nearly all familiar stuff for the Advent/Christmas period, though I hope I will be able to introduce a little something new.

There are also plans to encourage new members which your committee are working hard on. Please give them your support. We do make a good, focussed sound, but any Choral Society needs continually to work on attracting new members; keep spreading the word.

Ian Harrold

Fauré Workshop – 29th September 2007

The format is exactly the same as last year (if it ain't broke, don't fix it!). We will register from 12.30pm, start rehearsals at 1pm, break for tea and cake at 3pm, and then finish the workshop at about 5pm. There will be a supper for those who wish to partake – booking ESSENTIAL. We forgather again (I love that word – I pinched it from Joyce Grenfell) at 7.15pm to perform to an audience, who enjoy free entry. This is a great opportunity for those who haven't ever listened to a live choral performance to give it a go. There will be a retiring collection.

The music is the Fauré *Requiem* (Latin), Fauré *Cantique de Jean Racine* (French) and Handel *As Pant the Hart* (English). Both of the Fauré pieces were suggested by members.

I think we were further ahead on bookings in August last year, so we have to work extra hard to recruit singers in these last few weeks. The day's success relies on the support of our membership: those who sing; those who bring friends and family; those who spread the word to other singers; those who bake cakes or don pinnies and rubber gloves... Whatever you did last year, please do it again!

If you were one of the dear loyal souls who promised to join in, I'd be grateful if you would now complete a registration form (they are pink) or register via the website, and let me have a cheque.

Julia

From the chairman

Dear Friends ,

This has been a very different break from the usual for some of you who have been subjected to water and/or power loss. Hopefully this is now behind us, even though the effects on many of Gloucestershire people are long term. A return to normal life will be very welcome.

We have a great deal to learn in the coming weeks and shall have to make every effort to attend as often as possible in the coming weeks. I, for one, knew nothing about King Olaf, but the practices we have had have been met with common enjoyment of the music and narrative. Most of our potential audience will be in a similar position I suspect, and therefore we shall have to share our enthusiasm with our colleagues, friends and family in order to sell as many tickets as possible, and the earlier we begin to sow the seeds the better.

Before our concert, however, we have to encourage all those we know who enjoy singing to participate in our workshop on 29th September. Last year it was a major fund raiser and a great success, and your committee would like to see it become a regular feature of our season. Not only is it an opportunity to sing together, but also to meet with members of other societies, or none, to share in making music and a social occasion.

I wish you all a successful and happy second half of the season. Welcome back.

John Ewer

CONCERT INFORMATION

AUTUMN CONCERT

Saturday 10th November at
7.30pm St James' Parish Church
Dursley with the Tyndale Sinfonia.

Scenes from the Saga of King Olaf

Concert rehearsals in Dursley Parish Church will be on
Monday 5th November at 7.30pm.
and on the afternoon of the concert, 10th November, at 2.30pm.

Dress:

Ladies: Long black skirt or black evening trousers and long-sleeved black blouse and black jackets if desired.

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

AGM: Wed 28th November in the upper schoolroom at Dursley Tabernacle.

NEW MEMBERS:

Take a look at the article on **FINANCES** and you will see how much we need new members. So please do continue to encourage new singers to come along to our rehearsals but make sure you introduce them to the Secretary so that she can welcome them and take their details.

From your Secretary

I trust you all had a wonderful summer – let's not discuss the weather. Now we are all back in harness for what promises to be a cracking Autumn season.

I have written separately about the Workshop, so consider yourselves reminded. It is an important day for us, as it promotes the TCS, choral singing, and choral music to a wide audience.

Wenna Hills (alto) and husband Peter have moved home to be nearer to family, and we wish them both well. I shall miss Wenna terribly – not only is she a permanently sunny character, but also my stalwart helper in the kitchen on concert day, when we feed the orchestra (to stop them disappearing to local hostelryes!). Is anyone willing to step into the breach? I can't do it on my tod, especially this year with a large orchestra. Let me know.

I hope those who invested in the King Olaf CD are finding it useful – I certainly am. My main problem is trying to keep a lid on my emotions as the really lush bits put this singer through the wringer. I'm in danger of providing Torrents in November! I'd better keep off the mulled wine, this year. What with Vikings, and grape and spillage in the interval... it's more than a girl can cope with.

Photographer Ian Sadler did very well indeed when he organised us for the official photo – it was all really quite painless! We have also to thank John Hicks, who has since tweaked the photo a little, to adjust the effect of so many glaring white blouses. As you already know, we purchased the copyright and the photo is downloadable from the Flickr

website, for you to print as you wish. If you prefer a proper laboratory print (12"x8", with white border to allow you to trim and mount as you wish) then I will be taking orders from you at the beginning of September. Cost will be £2.50 each (ie, printing, post and packing, and a bit towards the copyright cost).

Choral Apprentices

It is part of our job as a choir with charity status to encourage and enable others to know the joy of singing; another good reason is that the long-term future of the TCS looks bleak if we don't!

You will be aware that Anne Shipton is our Schools Coordinator, and that we are able to offer students of Year 10 and above an 'apprenticeship' within the choir. This involves the student in attending our rehearsals, having a 'mentor', ie a choir member to help them in rehearsal, and singing with us in concert – there is no membership fee. We have got enough policy documents and CRB clearances to paper a living room with, but no students as yet. Anne's letters to schools have not received any responses, so perhaps we can do better by word of mouth. If you know of any students who might be interested, do please put them in touch with Anne.

So much for the youngsters. Now for the grown-ups!

Some brave souls who attended our open rehearsals have enjoyed the music, the

welcome, the atmosphere... but couldn't cope with the sight-singing, and gave up immediately, disappointed. The committee has therefore decided to take the plunge, and offer an apprenticeship programme for adults, and the costs will be underwritten by the TCS.

The programme runs from January to July 2008, beginning with a sight-singing course, taught by Lyn James, to run on Mondays from 14 January to 17 March, cost £30 (for 10 weeks). This will have singing from the start, and will cover basic music theory and notation, and pitch. Lyn promises that the sessions will be fun! Graduates of the course will then join the choir for rehearsals for the Summer concert. There will be no subscription charge for this apprenticeship period. This course is primarily for choral 'virgins', to enable them to join the TCS. However, if any current members feel the need to brush up, then they will be welcome to sign up. (No, you wouldn't get subscription-free membership!)

Lyn is happy to take a class of up to 20. Please spread the word; it will be first come, first served. Do bear in mind that the point of this course is to increase the TCS membership; it is not to teach people who have no intention of joining us.

These are the bare bones; there is a deal more to it, but enough for now. We are very excited about this experiment; Making Music says we are trail-blazers and they are watching our progress with interest. Fancy!

Committee Vacancies 2008

We have three committee members who complete their 3 year tour of duty in 2007:

- - Catherine Bennett, *Concert Manager*: this is mainly about staging, seating of the choir etc at events.
- - Jill Brown, *Fundraising Co-ordinator*: it's what it says on the tin – it doesn't mean you have to DO all the fundraising, but co-ordinate everyone's efforts.
- - Frances Neale, *Friends' Secretary*: slightly more than what it says on the tin... recruiting, corresponding with, and caring for Friends at concerts; seeking corporate sponsors and local authority funding.

All three ladies (all altos...) have done a fabulous job, for which we thank them from the bottom of our hearts. We now need volunteers to step forward and take over their positions in January 2008. If those willing to take on these jobs would shadow the current incumbents between now and the AGM, it would ensure a smooth handover.

If you are willing to take your turn and serve a term, please speak to any committee member for further information. Although we have specific jobs, we work as a team – you won't be left to cope on your own.

FINANCES

The Facts and Figures

Each year, members' subscriptions cover our rehearsal costs with only a little left over; i.e. last year subscription income was £2806 and rehearsal costs £2258, and this year subscriptions were £2594 with rehearsal costs £2198.

The summer concert makes a small surplus in the region of £500/600 in a good year, even less in a bad year – depending on the success of ticket sales.

The winter concert deficit increases every year (orchestra costs are rising annually). In order to cover this deficit we need to raise funds to the tune of £000's each year; our options are fundraising activities, begging for grants and donations etc., increasing ticket prices, selling more tickets, increasing subscriptions, recruiting new members, or not singing with an orchestra.

At present, we do very well at fundraising and begging letters, but these activities require a lot of hard work by a few members. Ideas for fundraising could well dry up; i.e. cake stall and Wotton Town Hall teas. Quiz and crossword compilers could tire of compiling, and members of doing yet another crossword/quiz. Funds may not always be available from councils, local companies and benefactors. We've had a good year this year by selling the piano, which is no longer

required, and by receiving a donation of £500, but both of these items are 'one-offs'. Increasing ticket prices could well have an adverse affect, i.e. we could price ourselves out of the market if prices are too high.

Selling more tickets for our concerts is an obvious solution. After all, we practise for some 13 weeks for each concert, go to the trouble of paying for venue, orchestra and soloists, and then don't seem to be bothered about getting an audience to sing to! Liken it to a company spending a lot of money producing some wonderful product and then half the sales force not bothering to market it!

We could all try to find new members by being proud of, and enthusiastic about, our Society, and telling friends, work colleagues etc all about what we do. 10 new members could produce some £600 in subscriptions and tickets sales. New TCS 'friends' would increase concert attendance.

By standing still (i.e. a decline in fundraising, no increase in ticket prices, no increase in tickets sold, no new members), in order to raise a mere £600, which wouldn't go far these days, we would need to increase subscriptions by £10 on present membership figures.

We have some tough choices to make!!

Tyndale Choral Society Website - News

As promised in the last newsletter, a new version of the website was launched at the start of the season.

Overall, the number of 'page requests' per month has nearly doubled; currently, the most popular sections are: 'news', 'about us' and 'concerts'. Rather than dwell on success, let me mention the things you might be missing.

Plan ahead:

the 'calendar' not only extends to the end of the year but has recently been updated to include all planned events in 2008.

Communicate:

only a few members are exploiting the notice board - use it for advertisements (such as 'for sale', 'wanted' or 'come to my event'), as a forum with other

members or anything else you can think of.

Shop:

join the TCS on-line shoppers and help to raise money for the society - if you shop with Amazon, the Music Room, John Lewis or M & S, please do it through our web-site - you pay no more but the society gets a commission on every sale.

The information on the main 'news' page is up to date. Each TCS officer can now personally add news items that are instantly visible to visitors. There is no better way to get the latest news.

As ever, your feedback and suggestions are welcome. Go to the 'contact us' page and write to the website administrator!

Committee members:

John Ewer	Chairman
Lorna Lane	Treasurer
Julia O'Connor-Beach	Secretary
Catherine Bennett	Concert Manager
Lisa Randell	Concert Secretary
Jill Brown	Fundraising Coordinator
Wendy Thomas	Publicity and Printing
Frances Neale	Friends Secretary
Ian Harrold	Conductor
Doreen Manning	Librarian
Audrey Sewell	MM Secretary

Mollie Neale - Founder of the Tyndale Choral Society

Some present members of the Society will remember Mollie from the time that she was the conductor of the choir (1960 - 1977). Indeed, founder members may well remember her from before that when she conducted the choir of St Martin's church in North Nibley. However, they may know little, if anything, about her early singing career.

As Mary Lake, she was a native of Norwich and trained at the Royal College of Music where she gained a scholarship and several exhibitions. After leaving College, she won one of five awards from the Moulton-Mayer Fund. The Award was designed to help young artists at the beginning of their public career, and was open to competition to any musician resident in the British Empire. This enabled her to give her first Wigmore Hall recital in June, 1939. The Song Recital programme she gave is shown opposite. (I have also managed to obtain a copy of the full programme from the Wigmore Hall archive - Ed).

According to her resumé, Mary Lake's voice was especially suited to oratorio and lyric singing. She had a large repertoire of English, French, German and Italian songs and folk-songs and was frequently heard on radio programmes.

Comments from newspaper reports including the Daily Telegraph, The Times, Observer and Birmingham Post commented that her tone, technique and musicianship were backed up by a genuine understanding of what the song meant. They also said that she had a fresh and flexible soprano voice, and an

unusually clear enunciation of words with the promise of real distinction as a Lieder singer, and continued that one could not have wished for a more delicate performance than that of "An das Lied" (Kilpinen) which could have come only from a really talented artist.

However, before she was able to get her singing career underway, the second world war broke out and she became one of the CEMA "**Music Travellers**" (Council for the Encouragement of Music and the Arts) between 1941 and 1944. Amongst other Travellers during this wartime period, were Imogen Holst and Ralph Vaughan Williams. In this capacity she organised CEMA concerts throughout the West Midlands, and sang to all types of audience in many towns and villages. After the war, she returned to London to devote her whole time to singing. She sang with many well-known musicians including the accompanist Gerald Moore. (Unfortunately, I have no information about that period of her musical life).

Before the Second World war, there was a regular local music festival for choirs - Stinchcombe Hill Festival. In this time local composers such as Ralph Vaughan Williams and Herbert Howells came down. It was very successful but stopped with the outbreak of war. After the war, attempts were made to revive the Festival and Mary Lake had been invited to sing. However, many of the original choirs were no longer functioning and the Festival could not be revived.

Towards the end of her singing career, Mary Lake (Mollie Neale as she became

PROGRAMME

SONG RECITAL

WEDNESDAY, 21st JUNE, 1939, at 8.30 p.m.

MARY LAKE (Soprano)

Aria : "Queen of Heaven, O Blessed Mary" } }	<i>Handel</i>
Cantata in praise of St. Cecilia }	
<hr/>	
Fjeldlied }	<i>Kilpinen</i>
An das Lied }	
So tanze }	
Vergiss meinichte }	
Kirchfahrt zu Weihnachten }	
Mondschein }	
Marienkirche zu Danzig im Gerüst }	
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Harmonie du soir }	<i>Debussy</i>
La grotte }	
Noel des enfants qui n'ont plus de maisons }	
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La flûte enchantée }	<i>Ravel</i>
Le grillon }	
Ronde }	
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Wood Magic }	<i>Martin Shaw</i>
To Mistress Margaret Hussey (MS.) }	<i>Patrick Hadley</i>
Lost Love }	<i>Herbert Howells</i>
The Lent Lily }	<i>John Ireland</i>
Matin Song (MS.) }	<i>Dora White</i>

At the piano: MR. FREDERICK ALLT

after marriage to farmer Mr G S Neale) became interested in training choirs and undertook courses in conducting and was also well-known as an adjudicator.

She trained a number of choirs before St Martin's in North Nibley and then, as we all know, she was instrumental in estab-

lishing the Tyndale Choral Society in 1960. It was named after William Tyndale, the translator of the Bible, whose monument stands on the hill above North Nibley, dominating the surroundings from which its members came. The Tyndale Monument is, incidentally, surrounded by land farmed by her husband.

Critique of the
Summer Concert in St James' Church on 7th July 2007
'Summer Serenade'

Last Saturday (7 July) saw the sun shining for Tyndale Choral Society's summer concert held at the Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin Wotton-under-Edge and dedicated to the late Judith Taylor.

The choir presented an interesting and varied programme comprising Ralph Vaughan Williams' Serenade to Music, Five Negro Spirituals from Michael Tippett's A Child of our Time, two Irish ballads and the rarely performed Phaudrig Crohoore by Charles Villiers Stanford. The concert was conducted by Ian Harrold, ably assisted by accompanist Christopher Boodle, who also performed his own composition Jazz-Fantasy on an American Spiritual on the organ.

The choir started a little uncertainly in the Serenade to Music but got into their stride in the Five Negro Spirituals, which also featured soloists Ruth Fitter (soprano),

Lisa Randell (alto), John Ewer (tenor) and Geoffrey Whiley (bass). There was some confident unaccompanied singing and the choir clearly enjoyed itself.

The high standard continued after the interval with the Irish ballads The Rose of Tralee and Danny Boy, both of which contained some sensitive singing from all the sections. The major work of the second half, Phaudrig Crohoore, was clearly much enjoyed by the choir who performed it with great spirit and musicianship, assisted by some excellent playing by Christopher Boodle.

To complete a highly enjoyable evening, the choir gave a polished rendition of Rhythm of Life, which was thoroughly appreciated by the audience.

After the concert a collection was taken for the Cotswold Care Hospice.

Jenny Cobb

From Wotton Friends of Cotswold Care Hospice

Summer arrived at last on Saturday (7 July) and was serenaded in by the lovely programme chosen for last evening's concert. The piano introduction to "Serenade to Music" was delightful and the Organ solo which followed – mind-blowing. Oh, those magnificent discords – what an arrangement!!

The sun lit up the faces of the singers, which enhanced the occasion for us, but was surely a nuisance for them as they tried to follow the Conductor. They did extremely well.

What a wonderful tribute to your friend who sadly died recently [Judith Taylor]; her family will have found it a most moving occasion I'm sure.

The "Rhythm of Life" sent everyone home with a smile, who could not tap their feet to this? A most fitting end to a Summer's day and the retiring collection resulted in £218.37 for which we are most grateful.

On behalf of Marilyn and myself, many, many thanks for a most enjoyable evening.

Jacqueline Sims MBE

Choir Members

Sopranos

Liz Barnes
Fiona Chandler
Mavis Church
Jenni Culverwell
Glenis Ewer
Anne Glanville
Christine Gourd
Clare Harrison
Marjorie Harrison
Diana Hobbs
Doreen Manning *L*
Marion Miller
Angela Pendlebury
Anne Shipton
Valerie Skinner
Joyce Theaker
Lesley Townsend
Sandra Tucker
Ros Wakefield
Vanessa Weaver
Elaine White
Elizabeth Young

Altos

Catherine Bennett
Jill Brown
Jenny Coles
Jacquelin Hill
Wenna Hills
Estelle James
Sally Lamerton
Lorna Lane *Tr*
Frances Neale
Anne Nuttall
Julia O'Connor Beach
Sec
Lisa Randell
Indigo Redfern
Kate Reeves
Wendy Richardson
Helen Roberts
Miriam Salman
Wendy Thomas
Alex Tomlinson
Eve Tudgay
Sue Walshaw
Lesley Wrankmore

Tenors

Philip Butcher
Jean Dabinett
John Ewer *Ch*
Peter Harney
Alistair MacLeod
Audrey Sewell
Andrew Young

Basses

Brian Bolsher
Mike Chambers
John Hicks *WS*
Brian Kitching
Derek Manning
Brian Neale
John Palmer
Dick Skinner *Ed*
Geoff Whiley

Names in *italics* - committee members:

Ch - Chairman: *Sec* - Secretary: *Tr* - Treasurer: *L* - Librarian
WS - Web Site *Ed* - Editor

Diary Dates and Other Matters

Committee Meetings:

The last meeting for this season is planned for Tues 18th September. If there is anything which you would like to be raised, please see members of the committee in good time.

Subscriptions:

All subscriptions should be in by now. If not, the rate is now £42 and £21 for full-time students. If you pay tax and wish to Gift Aid your subscriptions so that the Society can reclaim the tax paid - a free bonus to the funds - this is very simple and Treasurer, Lorna Lane (alto) will be only too happy to provide forms.

Sales Stall:

As ever, the stall will be in operation for the rest of the season. It does make a significant 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.

Tree of Light service:

Please remember we will be sending a group of singers to the Service at Tesco, Cam, on Sunday 9 December, in aid of the Cotswold Care Hospice. The more the merrier!

Amberley Carol Concert

Dates for your diaries: **first rehearsal Monday 26 November, 7.30** in the Methodist Church, Dursley.

Second rehearsal Tuesday 4 December 7.30 in Amberley .

Concert, Saturday 8 December, 7.30.

We will meet a little earlier for another bit of rehearsal.

If you can recruit some more tenors/basses for this very enjoyable event, that would be a great help. We would hate to have to pay

for outside assistance – this defeats the fund raising object, rather.

Saturday 10th November - help will be needed to erect and dismantle staging so please contact the Concert Manager (Catherine Bennett) with offers of assistance.

Wednesday 28th November - Annual General Meeting: Dursley Tabernacle Upper School Hall.

DIARY OF EVENTS

Key: DMC Dursley Methodist

September

Mon 03, 7.30pm, DMC, Open Rehearsal, Taster Evening.

Mon 10/17, 7.30pm, DMC, Rehearsal.

Tues 18, 7.30pm, Wotton-u-Edge, Committee meeting.

Mon 24, 7.30pm, DMC, Rehearsal.

Sat 29, 1 pm, St James' Dursley, Workshop/Concert.

October

Mon 01/08/15/22/29, 7.30pm, DMC, Rehearsal.

November

Mon 5, 7.30pm, St James' Dursley, Rehearsal.

Sat 10, 2.30pm, St James' Dursley, Rehearsal .

7.30pm, Concert Performance.

Wed 28, 7.30pm, AGM and supper, Dursley Tabernacle Upper School Hall.

Mon 26, 7.30pm Rehearsal Amberley church .

December

Tues 4th, 7.30pm Rehearsal Amberley church.

Sat 8, 7.30pm, Amberley Church, Carol concert.