



### Conductor's Notes ....

I write this having just experienced the delights of His Royal Highness's gardens, made the more enjoyable by experiencing it with so many Tyndale colleagues. I know our purpose is to make wonderful music together, but it is a mark of a vibrant, enthusiastic Choral Society that it has a successful corporate social life. And you don't have to wave handbags in the air to prove it [as in the BBC's 'Last Choir Standing'].

To all those who took part in our Summer Concert, please accept my great thanks for all the hard work you put in, not least having to adapt our rehearsal plans to accommodate a late wedding on the day. It was a lot to ask of everyone, but I hope the final result was vindication for the hard graft we had to put in on the Kodály pieces. For many, it will have been your first experience of a choral concert, and I hope the whole excitement and

atmosphere will remain with you. Think of it when we next get difficult passages to conquer (and there are plenty in the Bach B minor Mass!) After the difficulties of working on it, I suspect the Psalmus Hungaricus was a real revelation to many. Of course, it was greatly aided by a sensitive performance from James Atherton, and much fancy fingerwork from David Bednall, but ultimately my lasting memory is of the focussed intensity of the choral sound. Bravo.

I much enjoyed the opera pieces too, despite their inevitable demands on our stamina. If I had to single things out, perhaps the Linda extract and the Eugene Onegin waltz – once we had learned Tatyana's name! – had the greatest character, but there was no doubting the second wind we achieved in the Easter Hymn, leading to its glorious conclusion. An excellent audience, too, made for a splendid evening.

Now we move onwards and upwards towards 'St. Paul'. I think many of you are already becoming aware of its special qualities, and there are many more delights to learn yet, though I must reiterate my earlier observation about the piece: the notes are much easier than the Kodály notes, and indeed some of the opera notes, so we must learn them quickly, in order that I can start to work as soon as possible on the expressive quality they need to come off. Please do your homework. I fancy it will be a very popular concert when the time comes.

Our workshop in September will be a very exciting day out. I am looking forward to it immensely, not least because I can just sing along with the rest of you, and get the benefit of Nigel Perrin's expertise. I promise I can sing the right notes when I am not conducting! I know too that many of you are already working on some of the music with John Hicks in the Summer Sing, which is very gratifying. Thank you, John.

Looking back, I see I finished my contribution to last Autumn's Newsletter with a hint that plans were afoot to attract new members. Although the ABC course was not just for that, its success has been evident, and I am thrilled at the renewed energy and purpose we show these days. My thanks and those of members, old and new, must go to Julia for her inspired idea.

Ian Harrold

## **Nigel Perrin – European Sacred Music Workshop** (27 September, St Mary's)

This promises to be an exciting and enjoyable day, with a director who fizzles with good humour and enthusiasm, and whose experience is unquestioned. Those attending should all benefit from the day, and go home with new knowledge.

As expected, the ladies' places have been sold (one or two alto spaces may still be available), and at the time of writing we still have room for tenors and basses.

If you don't wish to join in, but would like to observe proceedings and wouldn't mind helping with the tea/coffee breaks, then please do volunteer to help. If you can just do an hour, that would be grand.

I had morning coffee with Mr Perrin at his home recently (but that's another story), and I was a little nervous at the prospect of meeting someone at the top of his profession, as I am at the bottom of the amateur end, scratching with the chickens. I know my place. I laid my cards on the table, and confessed that I know Absolutely Nothing about Anything Choral Whatsoever. Nigel proved to be patience, charm, and kindness personified, even burst into song for a few bars... and my anxiety drifted away. I can't wait for the workshop!

Julia

# From the Chairman

Dear Friends,

Welcome to our new term and continuation of rehearsals for 'St Paul'. I hope that you have enjoyed your break (some of us are enjoying new work under John Hicks in August), and are returning reinvigorated for our new work. Last term's practices and concert were very arduous, this term will be, I hope, easier. St Paul has much to offer, high drama with exciting fugues, contrasting with more gentle choral pieces. We shall also have more frequent rests, as the soloists take over. On behalf of the Trustees, I must congratulate everyone, Particularly all our new members who came through the ABC course.

Our future programmes have been taken from a list of suggestions made by many of you and we hope that the final choices will be to your liking. Some will be familiar and others less so. We had thought that the deliberations of the music focus group, and others from the choir who attended, might not take too long, but in the event, we had a very full evening at the Old Spot where we were made very welcome and reached our consensus by closing time. I look forward to seeing you all in September.

Best wishes,

John Ewer

## Amberley Carol Concert - Dates

Soprano Sandra Tucker and husband Rev. Mike Tucker (official Tyndale Friend) organise this lovely event at their Parish Church in Amberley; we just turn up and sing, drink wine and eat mince pies, and admire the lovely decorations. It is a delightful setting and a fun event. The Church is kind enough to donate proceeds to the TCS.

As this event is after our November concert, we have had problems in the past with forming a balanced choir – it is a busy time of year and some members go off to sing with others. Some of us have also felt under-rehearsed. The committee therefore took the decision this year to make the Carol Concert an integral part of the TCS calendar, so that as many as possible can plan to participate, and so that more rehearsal time can be arranged.

After the 'St Paul' concert, we will have a week off. We will rehearse for the Carol Concert in the Methodist Church on Monday 24 November, and Monday 1 December. We will rehearse at Amberley on Tuesday 9 December, and perform at Amberley on Thursday 11 December.

There will be a sign-up register in the coffee room in due course; please be sure to indicate if you can join in the fun (or not). Thank you.

Julia

## Membership news

Elsewhere you will see the impressive list of current members. We have said a tearful farewell to Philip Butcher, who has moved to Derby, and welcome back Betty Hebditch in September after her 18 month sojourn in the United States. Betty has kept an eye on us via the website – what a loyal soul! The ABC graduates have of course accounted for the sudden swelling of the ranks, but our concert and the increased publicity in the ‘Gazette’ has attracted several others. The drawbridge will have to be raised... our rehearsal and concert venues place limits on our numbers. But we can always squeeze in a tenor!

With the joy of increased numbers comes increased work for your committee. It is more important than ever that everyone signs the register each week, and do note on the register in advance if you are going on holiday, otherwise we worry. Similarly, let the secretary know if you are unwell – we do care. Members are expected to attend all rehearsals – *even if they know the piece backwards* – and absences should be the exception, not the rule. Your participation in the concert is dependent on your rehearsal attendance record and always at the discretion of the MD.

Our numbers make it even more essential that we obey choral etiquette, and don’t chatter during rehearsal. It just isn’t cricket. Come early to chat to your pals, or come to the Old Spot for a tincture afterwards, but don’t make life hard for either Ian or for your fellow singers by chewing the fat when others are singing.

## Absolute Beginners Class 2008

We should really have issued diplomas at a formal graduation ceremony, or introduced some highly inappropriate initiation rite, but we made do with extracting subscription money from our beloved ABCs. I would call the project a ‘howling success’, but that, too, seems not quite right, given the ABCs’ wonderful contribution to the Tyndale sound. The ABCs are now fully-fledged Tyndalers, and continue to throw themselves into the life of the choir with gusto. We thank them for their enthusiasm and helpfulness, and their commitment to TCS.

We’ve been asked if we will repeat the exercise; well, not immediately. A lie-down in a darkened room would be preferable. The committee is looking at other initiatives for next year. Watch this space!

## Audience Numbers

It was wonderful to see such a good attendance at the Summer Concert (about 175). What with the success of King Olaf last November, we seem to be on a roll. However, our sister societies regularly have audiences of 300, and there’s plenty more room in the pews. We can and should do better. The whole point of our concerts is to bring music to our community (I won’t mention the obvious fact that ticket sales are the life-blood of our finances) so do make every effort to sell tickets for our Big November Concert.

St Paul, with the Emerald Ensemble, is already generating interest and you should advise your friends not to rely on buying a ticket at the door – there might not be any!

## CONCERT INFORMATION

### *Winter Concert*

**Saturday 15th November** at  
7.30pm St James' Parish Church  
Dursley with the Emerald  
Ensemble:

#### *Mendelssohn 'St Paul'*

Concert rehearsals in Dursley  
Parish Church will be on Monday  
10th November at 7.30pm. and  
on the afternoon of the concert,  
15th November, at 2.30pm.

#### **Dress:**

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

### **Recording the Winter concert**

We are delighted that Bournville  
College, Birmingham, are sending six  
students with Paul Harper (Curriculum  
Leader in Music) and Rik Staines  
(Ian's brother) to record 'St Paul'.

They are hoping that this extra-mural  
exercise will be an integral part of their  
college course; it will in any case be  
invaluable practical experience for  
them.

Emerald Ensemble have given their  
blessing to the proposal, on condition  
that no financial benefit accrues.

## **Friends of Tyndale Choral Society**

*'The perfect Christmas present...'*

Do remember the 'Tyndale Friends  
Package' is a wonderful gift to  
anyone who loves the great choral  
tradition. It includes:

- the Society newsletter
- a reserved seat (in the best  
acoustic position) at both  
the summer concert in St  
Mary's Church, Wotton-  
under-Edge, and the winter  
concert held at St James'  
Church, Dursley
- a free programme and a  
complimentary interval  
drink
- the right to participate in  
any Society fundraising  
events which may be  
organised from time to  
time, on the same basis as  
full members.

At £25 for one and £45 for a  
couple, this represents excellent  
value. For further details, please  
contact Kate Reeves.

## **Committee members for 2008:**

John Ewer	Chairman
Lorna Lane	Treasurer
Julia O'Connor-Beach	Secretary
Lisa Randell	Concert Secretary
Wendy Thomas	Publicity and Printing
Kate Reeves	Friends Secretary
John Hicks	Website Manager
Doreen Manning	Librarian
Audrey Sewell	MM Secretary
Vacancy	Fundraising Coordinator

### Other positions:

Ian Harrold	Conductor
Anne Shipton	Concert Manager

## **Forthcoming Concert Programmes**

**Summer 2009:** Christopher Boodle's 'Gloria'  
Vaughan Williams' 'In Windsor Forest'  
Gershwin 'Medley arr Harrold'

**Winter 2009:** Bach 'Mass in B Minor'

**Summer 2010:** Duruflé Requiem  
Ireland 'These Things Shall be'

**Winter 2010:** Handel's 'Messiah'

**Summer 2011:** Pergolesi 'Magnificat'  
Monteverdi 'Beatus Vir'  
'In the Mood'

**Winter 2011:** Verdi Four Sacred Pieces  
Puccini Messa di Gloria

## Committee Vacancies

To spread the load and responsibility of the committee members, each serving Tyndale Trustee (i.e. full committee member) has a job allocation. We have the minimum number of Trustees, but we currently have a vacancy for the '*Fundraising*' slot (although Jill Brown and Liz Barnes have been co-ordinating some events this year).

At the end of this year, Lorna Lane is stepping down as *Treasurer*, and Doreen Manning as *Librarian*. We are extremely grateful to both Lorna and Doreen for the wonderful work they have done. The best way to show this gratitude is to have a seamless handover to a successor, so that their good work is continued. We have 'job descriptions' for the positions, and the retiring members will happily explain the job to anyone interested.

The *Treasurer* is an Officer, and is appointed annually. For continuity's sake, it would of course be best for a Treasurer to serve at least three years. The *Librarian* is a committee member but has not been restricted to the three year rule in the past.

These positions are extremely important to the success and smooth running of the society; indeed we can't manage without them. None of us WANTS to serve on a committee, but some of us MUST take a turn. Any member, established or recent, is very welcome to take up the baton. Don't worry about committee meetings – only four a year, they are quite painless and often involve a glass of wine. We have very structured agendas, and zip through the business-like greased lightning. The other benefit is that you get to know more of the membership which helps one feel part of the Society.

So be a sport, and please do consider offering to fill one of the gaps from next year's AGM.

## A Visit to Highgrove

25 members and friends boarded the coach on a rather overcast 6th August to see the gardens of our near neighbour at Highgrove. We were taken on a short tour round the lanes, probably to lose a little time and ensure we arrived on the dot of the prescribed moment. I am sure we have all been passed the stone walls of the estate many times and have only been rewarded with the briefest glimpse of what lies behind. So it would be interesting to see the garden at first hand with a guide to point out all the interesting features.

Something that I had not appreciated beforehand was how much it must have changed in the last twenty years or so. The development of the garden has come from Prince Charles' own ideas with the help of many designers and not least the gardeners who have a never-ending supply of things to do. It seems that as well as the organic aspects of the garden, Prince Charles wanted to have a much less formal appearance so that it became a more restful place to be away from his other commitments. This is clearly evident when you see the various gardens surrounding the house, for example the Terrace Garden with the millstone water feature and the Thyme Walk leading to the dovecote in the distance, and the Sundial Garden with views across the Wild-Flower Meadow towards the Walled Garden. There are other walks giving views of features elsewhere including Tetbury Church. There are also the smaller private areas tucked away in other parts of the estate. He has made use of these to place redundant church masonry, statues and other gifts from students, numerous leaders and benefactors from around the world. The Arboretum contains a large diversity of trees and shrubs from many places. The Walled Garden is rather more ordered and contains a wide variety of plants as well vegetables for use

in the house. In the centre is a moss-covered fountain and from it radiate gravelled paths. Archways of roses, espaliered apples, sweet peas and even runner beans in summer are set over the brick paths. It was all very colourful.

If we had visited earlier in the year, I would have really liked to have seen the wild-flower meadows at their peak. I am sure they would have been spectacular. I have seen similar in Switzerland at the end of June. I am also sure that a visit in the Autumn would also be very worthwhile.

I am no gardener and so it is difficult to give any real appreciation of how it has all come together but, nevertheless, it was fascinating to see what has been achieved. Some may prefer a more formal, precise approach but if you haven't been there already, I suggest you take an opportunity to see for yourselves.

Dick

## SUMMER SING A LIT

Four summer sing dates were held at St Martin's Church, North Nibley. John Hicks led an enthusiastic group of up to 28 singers through several pieces from the OUP European Sacred Music book - some most beautiful music by Verdi, Bruckner, Franck, Palestrina, Schubert, Lassus. The billing was 'just for fun', and it certainly was - even though John was a hard task-master! It was lovely that five of our newest members joined in, as well as six non-Tyndalers who were signed up for the Nigel Perrin workshop. The Summer Sing was certainly good preparation for the workshop - it's always a boon to have the notes under your belt in advance. More importantly, it was a lovely way to spend a couple of hours, and support St Martin's Church with the proceeds.

Julia

## TYNDALE CHORAL SOCIETY DIARY OF EVENTS 2008

Key:            DMC Dursley Methodist Church            BH Bank Holiday

Month	Day/Date	Time	Venue	Activity	Notes
Aug	<b>SUMMER BREAK</b>				
Sept	Mon 01	7.30pm	DMC	Open Rehearsal	Taster Evening
	Mon 08	7.30pm	DMC	Rehearsal	
	Wed 10	7.30pm	Dursley	Committee meeting	
	Mon 15	7.30pm	DMC	Rehearsal	
	Mon 22	7.30pm	DMC	Rehearsal	
	Sat 27	10.00am	St Mary's, WuE	Workshop	Nigel Perrin
	Mon 29	7.30pm	DMC	Rehearsal	
Oct	Mon 06	7.30pm	DMC	Rehearsal	
	Mon 13	7.30pm	DMC	Rehearsal	
	Mon 20	7.30pm	DMC	Rehearsal	
	Mon 27	7.30pm	DMC	Rehearsal	
Nov	Mon 03	7.30pm	DMC	Rehearsal	
	Mon 10	7.30pm	St James' Dursley	Rehearsal	Arrive early, please
	Sat 15	2.30pm	St James' Dursley	Rehearsal	Arrive early, please
	Sat 15	7.30pm	St James' Dursley	<b>Performance</b>	Arrive 7.10pm, please
	Mon 24	7.30pm	DMC	Rehearsal Carols	
Dec	Mon 1	7.30pm	DMC	Rehearsal Carols	
	Tue 9	7.30pm	Amberley	Rehearsal Carols	
	Thu 11	6.30pm	Amberley	Concert Rehearsal and performance	

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

### Committee Meetings:

The last meeting for this season is now planned for October. If there are any matters which you would like to be raised, please see members of the committee in good time.

### Subscriptions:

All subscriptions should be in by now. For any new members joining during the second half of the season, the rate is reduced to 2/3 of the current subscription (which is £50 for full members and £25 for full-time students). Please note that there is no separate music hire charge this

year. 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 during the second half 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.

**Critique of the**  
**TYNDALE CHORAL SOCIETY**  
**SUMMER CONCERT**  
**SATURDAY 5 JULY 2008**

A wet and windy Saturday evening saw Tyndale Choral Society's Summer Concert, at the Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin, Wotton under Edge. The first half of the concert showcased two works by Kodaly; the Psalmus Hungaricus and The Music Makers – an Ode. The Psalmus Hungaricus was the more technically difficult piece and the choir rose to the occasion, supported by excellent tenor solos from James Atherton. The diction from both choir and soloist was good and if the singing sagged a bit in the last third, this was not surprising considering the vocal challenge of the piece. All in all, this was a very creditable piece of singing with sympathetic conducting from Ian Harrold and excellent accompaniment from David Bednall. The Music Makers, one of Kodaly's last pieces, was written with student voices in mind and therefore was less technically difficult, but the choir again showed the music had little fear for them. Diction was again good and there was effective use of light and shade.

The second half of the concert consisted of well-known opera choruses. The Polovtsian Dances from Prince Igor was perhaps not the best piece to open with as the soprano entry is especially difficult to keep in tune, especially after a break, but on the whole the choir coped well with the demands placed on it. A highlight of the second half was Ruth Fitter's solo in Donizetti's Linda di Chamounix which ended with a distant, farewell voice from the back of the church. The remainder of the choruses were on the whole effective, though the choir showed signs of weariness. The concert finished with the Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves as an encore.

Taken overall, this was a well thought out concert with plenty of variety to keep the audience entertained. The soloists, Ruth Fitter and James Atherton, together with the accompanist David Bednall were excellent and Ian Harrold again was a sympathetic and effective conductor.

Jenny Cobb

## **Why not do your Shopping on the TCS Website?**

The contribution to the Society's funds from the TCS on-line shop continues to climb slowly. To try and accelerate growth we have recently signed a number of new contracts and a second page of vendor buttons is now available. To whet your appetite, in addition to our original partners (*Amazon, M&S, John Lewis and the Musicroom*) we now receive commission from orders with *BHS, HMV, the National Lottery, PC World* and many other best of breed retailers.

The work has now been done to negotiate a wide variety of exciting shopping opportunities and enhance our website to exploit them.

**Please use the facility!!** Remember: you pay no more whether you use our website or go direct to a retailer but for every referred sale TCS gets a small commission and that helps to keep our annual subscriptions at a reasonable level. **Use it yourself and send the link to your friends - the more the merrier.**

## **Members' Contributions**

Remember that your contributions to the Newsletter are important. We get them only occasionally but would like to see more. If you have something that might be of interest to others, speak to Julia (Secretary) or Dick Skinner (Editor).

## **Rackfield Car Park in Dursley**

(The one behind the swimming pool.)

We are advised that the car park will be closed from 9 January 2009 for about 6 months during the construction of Sainsbury's.

The current 117 spaces will become 215; of which 115 will be available for short term (up to 2 hours) parking. Stroud DC feel that with the long stay at May Lane and possibly additional spaces at the bus station site, that we should all cope. Ha. We will be affected during our rehearsal period, but parking should be available for our November concert.

# Choir Members

## Sopranos

Liz Barnes  
Fiona Chandler  
Mavis Church  
Jenni Culverwell  
Glenis Ewer  
Diane Freeland  
Anne Glanville  
Christine Gourd  
Jenni Hamley  
Marjorie Harrison  
Diana Hobbs  
Sheelagh Hudleston  
Maggie Jordan  
Rosemary Lea  
Margaret Lloyd  
Lynette Magnone  
Doreen Manning *L*  
Marion Miller  
Angela Pendlebury  
Julie Phillips  
Barbara Sanderson  
Anne Shipton  
Valerie Skinner  
Joyce Theaker  
Lesley Townsend  
Jan Tucker  
Sandra Tucker  
Ros Wakefield  
Vanessa Weaver  
Elaine White  
Mary Wright  
Elizabeth Young

## Altos

Melanie Baxter  
Catherine Bennett  
Jill Brown  
Jenny Coles  
Liz Crocker  
Pam Davis  
Colleen Dunmall  
Shelagh Fitzarthur  
Clare Harrison  
Annette Heylings  
Angie Hill  
Jacquelin Hill  
Estelle James  
Monica James  
Sally Lamerton  
Lorna Lane *Tr*  
Carole MacDonald  
Francis Neale  
Anne Nuttall  
Julia O'Connor Beach  
*Sec*  
Lisa Randell  
Indigo Redfern  
Kate Reeves  
Wendy Richardson  
Miriam Salman  
Wendy Thomas  
Eve Tudgay  
Sue Walshaw  
Lesley Wrangmore  
Miriam Yagud

## Tenors

Philip Butcher  
Jean Dabinett  
Sue Davies  
John Ewer *Ch*  
Peter Harney  
Colin Levine  
Alastair MacLeod  
Len Miller  
Kathie Rebbeck  
Audrey Sewell  
Mark Wright Davies  
Andrew Young

## Basses

Frank Andoh  
James Austin  
Brian Bolsher  
Mike Chambers  
Jonathan Golding  
Richard Hellen  
John Hicks *WS*  
Brian Kitching  
Derek Manning  
Brian Neale  
John Palmer  
Dick Skinner *Ed*  
Geoff Whiley

*Titles in italics :*

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