



Conductor's Notes

Many thanks for all your hard work for the Summer Concert. I really enjoyed working on Ireland's *These things shall be* and I sensed many of you felt the same. In the event, it came off remarkably well, with some thrilling climaxes. The Duruflé *Requiem* is harder to bring off, and we had occasional problems adjusting to the organ sound; even so, there were many passages to enjoy: a very confident *Kyrie* and a suitably hushed *Lux aeterna* remain in my memory. It was a pity about the final *In Paradisum*, but it shows how we must always strive to improve our tone production, which is where Bronwen's input is so useful - even for the most experienced of you!

It was a great joy to welcome a good number of new members from the preceding ABC course. Many have already made a great contribution to the Society; I am very proud of our encouragement of new singers, and I hope in return they (you!) find it valuable and fun developing new skills.

This is a time of change. Most of you know that I had said I wanted to retire after next year (2011), so that I could move closer to my family, and indeed go back to singing while I still had a voice! My plans have changed. I have the chance to go into what I jocularly refer to as my 'old folks' home' this year. (It is not really an old folks' home; it is a retirement village where doing lots of things is encouraged, and I have already sort of taken over an embryonic choir - you should hear us do my two-part version of *The sun has got his hat on!*). Accordingly, I now intend to move on at the end of this season. Your Committee had already made tentative approaches to possible successors, and I am sure you will see more evidence of this process over the next few weeks.

I have enjoyed my time with you hugely. It was never going to be for very long, given my age when I started, but I think we have together achieved

quite a lot. You have sung some works with me that I doubt you would in many other choirs (remember *Phaudrig Crohoore!*), as well as some masterpieces. Thank you for all that, for the friendships made and for the joy of music-making week by week.

Ian

CONCERT INFORMATION

Anniversary Concert

Saturday 13th November at 7.30pm
St James' Parish Church Dursley with the Amadeus Orchestra.

Handel ~ Messiah

There will be a rehearsal in the church on the afternoon of the concert at 2.30pm

Dress:

Ladies: Long black skirt or evening trousers and white blouses in the Summer, and long-sleeved black blouse and black jackets, if desired, in the Autumn.

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

Diary Dates and Other Matters

Committee Meetings:

If there are any matters which you would like to be raised, please see members of the committee in good time. The next meeting is on 8th September.

Subscription for 2010 will remain at £50.00 for those yet to pay. Please ensure that any new members contact Suzette Darby (Treasurer) so that she can register their membership details and, if applicable, the Gift Aid declaration.

Sales Stall:

As ever, the stall will continue to be in operation during this second part of the season. It does make a significant contribution to the funds and Estelle and Sue would be grateful for your contributions of books, plants and other produce, records, CDs/tapes, music and anything else that is saleable, and in any case visit the stall and buy and give any help you can.

Fund Raising events –

Dursley cake stall – We missed out on our Spring cake stall in Dursley due to my error and are planning one on 18th September. Since Glenis and I will be in California with our younger son, Jill Brown has volunteered to be in charge. We will be asking for cakes at the first rehearsal and these should go to Jill. Thank you for your usual efforts in anticipation.

John Ewer

From the Chairman

July/August 2010

I trust that you have all had an enjoyable and restful few weeks off. I avoid the word “break”, as Catherine Bennett, our Secretary-elect, had her holiday spoiled by fracturing her foot. She is remarkably cheerful as she awaits surgery to pin the bone(s) together. I have been made very aware of the frustration and pain of foot injury as a result of Glenis’ surgery last March and, on your behalf, wish Catherine a speedy return to full health.

It was a great joy for me to see so many at our 50th anniversary lunch. I was one of our choir who had the pleasure of rehearsing and performing under Molly Lakes direction when the choir was a few years old. Such was the esteem in which Mollie was held and the loyalty that she engendered, that for several years one tenor, who had moved to Rugby to be nearer his family, rarely missed a rehearsal. Each Monday he would travel down by train and stay with friends overnight. Those of us who knew her were greatly privileged and learned so much from her. We have been so fortunate with our subsequent conductors who have led us to this, our 50th anniversary November concert. For the first time, Ian’s great friend, our president James Bowman, will sing with us.

In August some thirty singers from Tyndale and outside are looking forward to practising some of the choruses from Elijah in preparation for Nigel Perrin’s workshop on 2nd October. This is an increase in the number of singers and once again John

Hicks will be leading us and, if we enjoy this August session as much as previous years, then it will be time very well spent. The company and pleasure that these four weeks develop is a great delight.

Our next main event, which I trust will be also a major fund raising effort, is the Nigel Perrin workshop. He has led us in a previous workshop which was a great success and many people commented afterwards that they had no idea that their range was as great as he managed to get from them. Following the workshop there will be a concert using the pieces that we have practiced during the day. Elijah does benefit from a big choir so please book your places as soon as you can so that the event is the success it deserves to be. We are hoping to have a good influx of singers from the Cotswold Choral Group to bolster our numbers.

There are a number of changes ahead of us in the coming months. Julia, as those of you on email are aware, has resigned her secretarial position as from July 31st for personal reasons. We shall have to appoint her successor early in September so that the rest of the year proceeds smoothly. Julia has done an enormous amount of work for the choir and has been a great innovator. She was responsible for the introduction of the September/October workshop and has undertaken all the tasks associated with the event. It has proved to be a huge success. The ABC was again her initiative which was very successful and won her a National Award from “Making Music” as well as introducing many new younger singers into the choir. The event has been copied by Thornbury Choral Society with equal success showing the interest and talent is there waiting to be

tapped. Julia together with Lorna Lane, chiefly, obtained a National Lottery Grant to help fund our production of Elgar's King Olaf and persuaded the BBC to part with funds which underpinned our last ABC. Last, but not least, she enabled a number of us to indulge our nostalgia for old films at the delightful private cinema in Cromhall. She has served us well and I wish her, on behalf of us all, happiness and success in future roles.

I am also immensely grateful to all who sought a new home for the Rosemary Bowmer Staging. Len Miller had the greatest success and the staging will now be housed at Barry Walker's premises, The Priory, in Long Street. This will be a very convenient storage space and serve the Society well.

Ian, our conductor, was due to retire next year but is shortly moving to a retirement village and is involved with organising music there for the residents. He would like, therefore, to finish following *The Messiah*. We have advertised for a new conductor, and in the coming weeks of rehearsal, the applicants will come and lead a half rehearsal so that we are able to assess them and they us. We will keep you informed as we progress.

Finally, as you know, we have received a legacy from Rosemary Bowmer's estate which has now been invested to provide an annual income that will enable us to undertake further outreach work. We plan, again, to visit schools to try to encourage young singers so that they may participate in our concerts as part of our Society. Gareth Malone managed it so let's be ambitious. We also propose to continue our workshops and from time to time run further ABC sessions. If you

have suggestions for music that we might undertake at a workshop, it needs to be sufficiently popular/known so that one day's rehearsal would enable a reasonable concert standard to be achieved for the evening, or any other ideas/initiatives please pass them on to your section representatives.

I wish you all a very happy season, and successful Messiah.

John Ewer

Don't Forget:

'Battle of the Gods'

**Saturday, 2nd October, 2010 at
13:00 in St James' Church,
Dursley**

**A choral workshop
directed by Nigel Perrin**

Mendelssohn ~ Elijah



If you haven't yet booked your place, please do so as soon as possible. See Julia. If there are insufficient numbers to make it viable, it will have to be cancelled. We really don't want don't that to happen!

Looking to the future

Governing Document

At the AGM, on September 13th, your Committee will ask you to ratify some changes to the Society's Governing Document. As it is only two years since the last revision we thought that a word or two of explanation was in order.

Three principal issues are addressed by the proposed changes:

1. adjusting the composition of the committee to re-balance responsibility and workload.
2. formalising the role of President.
3. expanding the scope of business that may be transacted at a General Meeting rather than at the Annual General Meeting.

Adjusting the composition of the committee

It is proposed that responsibility and workload should be re-balanced across four Officers rather than three. Currently, our Secretary is responsible for the administration of all of the Society's affairs. We propose that:

- the Secretary should be responsible for the operational management of the Society
- the Events Manager should be responsible for organising concerts, workshops and other events.

The roles of Chairman and Treasurer should remain essentially unchanged. It is proposed that written job descriptions be agreed with each Officer and published to members.

Formalising the role of President

Although there is a clear tradition, the concept and role of President is currently neither defined nor documented. The proposed change would correct this oversight.

Expanding the scope of business that may be transacted at a General Meeting

According to our current rules, certain classes of business can only be conducted during an Annual General Meeting, not a General Meeting. As this restriction applies to the ratification of Officer appointments and changes to the Governing Document it is, to say the least, inconvenient.

The threat of closure, the urgent need to re-balance workload and the resignation of our past-Secretary in July have caused us to circumvent current rules by bringing forward the next AGM such that we can conduct essential business and then adjourn to a more usual date for the consideration of other matters.

The proposed changes would remove the need for such a parliamentary interpretation of our rules in the future.

The Present Committee members for 2010 are:

John Ewer	Chairman
Vacancy	Treasurer
Vacancy	Secretary
Vacancy	Concert Secretary
Vacancy	Publicity and Printing
Kate Reeves	Friends Secretary
John Hicks	Website Manager
Lynette Magnone	Librarian
Julie Phillips	MM Secretary
Vacancy	Fundraising Coordinator

Other positions:

Ian Harrold	Conductor
Vacancy	Concert Manager

The committee has proposed that, subject to ratification by members, the following should be co-opted to the committee for the remainder of the 2010 season:

Secretary:	Catherine Bennett
Treasurer:	Suzette Darby
Concert Manager:	Marion Miller
Publicity & Printing:	Lisa Kicinski
Concert Secretary:	Liz Barnes

For 2011 the committee will invite members to ratify the following appointments at the AGM in September:

Chairman:	John Hicks
Secretary:	Catherine Bennett
Treasurer:	Suzette Darby
Events Manger:	Marion Miller

Critique of Summer Concert 2010

Over the past few years Tyndale Choral Society has pursued a policy of promoting overlooked works by well-known composers, and this summer's concert, in St Mary's Church Wotton-under-Edge, was no exception. The first half featured "These Things Shall Be" by John Ireland, a composer best known for chamber music, short pieces for the piano and song cycles. There was a great deal to praise in this performance, notably during the climaxes, but the more meditative parts saw some hesitancy, some flat singing and in places the diction left a lot to be desired (though this last may in part have been due to the acoustics). The rest of the first half saw Joanne Mayling (Soprano) sing "Silent Noon" by Ralph Vaughan Williams, "The Time of Roses" by Roger Quilter and "Waltz of My Heart" by Ivor Novello, whilst Paul Fletcher (Baritone) sang "Three Shakespeare Songs" again by Roger Quilter. These were all delightful, sung well and admirably suited for a summer evening.

The second half contained a single work, the Requiem Op 9 by Maurice Duruflé. There was much to commend in this performance; diction was greatly improved and there was some beautiful, expressive singing, particularly in the Kyrie, whilst the soprano and baritone solos were excellent. However, there was also some hesitancy in some of the entries as well as some flat singing, which can probably be put down to tiredness as the evening progressed together with the effects of the heat.

Overall there was much to enjoy in this concert, and Ian Harrold is to be commended for his conducting and his empathy with the music.

Jenni Cobb

TCS Website

The website continues to attract hundreds of visitors; in June 3088 pages of information were delivered to 526 people!

Revenue from the on-line shop was £96.76 in the second quarter of 2010. Bearing in mind that our income from this source is skewed toward the fourth quarter, this represents steady growth. Since inception a total profit of £1114.28 has been generated; money that would otherwise have had to come from increased subscriptions or other fund-raising activities.

You may have wondered why there has been some pressure to use the website to enrol on the Summer Sing. Well, we're doing an experiment, attempting to automate some administrative tasks. To those who participated, *thank you*. You've helped us to automate attendee lists, sending acknowledgements and printing joining letters. There is much still to do: Len Miller and John Hicks are currently working to interface the website with a commercial on-line database. When finished, we hope to have considerably reduced the workload on our team of volunteers.

In a similar vein, if you have an e-mail address but have yet to give it to the Society, please do so. Use of electronic mail rather than the postal service saves time, money and trees.

Be a buddy. If you know a member who doesn't have internet access, would you consider offering to forward Society e-mails to them and / or booking their places on events?

John Hicks

Those who were at the 50th Anniversary Lunch will know that Estelle has been at every concert since the Society's inception. Here she writes about the start of the Society.

Tyndale Choral Society

On October 22nd 1959 the augmented church choir of St. Martin's Church, North Nibley, gave a performance of Handel's "Messiah" with professional soloists Joan Fullerton (sop), Grace Bodey (cont), Ronald Bristol (tenor) and James Walkley (bass). The organist was Dr. Herbert Sumsion, organist of Gloucester Cathedral, and the solo trumpeter was W. Stanley Smith.

The choir was the brain child of the church choir mistress, Mrs. Mollie Neale, better known as the professional singer and broadcaster, Mary Lake. The nucleus of the 80-strong singers was St. Martin's Church Choir. The others came from the surrounding local area and included all abilities from those with years of experience in choral singing to complete novices - those who just enjoyed singing. Most of the church choir was included in this latter category. It was certainly a big challenge for us but obviously one which Mrs. Neale thought we were equal to. Hardly any of us could read music and we had to learn everything by heart. This must have been very tedious for our conductor, our more experienced colleagues and most of all for the poor pianist who sat there endlessly "donging out" the notes. Some of us bought a recording of the work (LPs in those days) to help us in our ambition. This was probably very helpful to the sopranos but a bit tricky for inexperienced altos, tenors and basses to pick out their notes.

However, we persevered and finally were deemed to be up to performance standard.

When the big day came, St. Martin's was packed to overflowing. There was great excitement in the village. We'd never had anything like this before. The soloists and the organist duly arrived and the BBC came to make a recording of some of the choruses for inclusion in the Home Service programme "Music Notebook" to be broadcast on 4th December.

In the event the concert was a triumph for all concerned and on the strength of that performance the Tyndale Choral Society was born. Under Mollie Neale's leadership, the members of the choir decided to form themselves into a choral society, and "The Creation" was suggested for the next concert. This duly took place in St. Martin's, North Nibley, on Thursday 20th October 1960, with Dr. Sumsion again accompanying on the organ and soloists Cynthia Glover (sop), John Poole (tenor) and Richard Standen (bass). This was, of course, the first concert of the newly formed Tyndale Choral Society.

In 1961 it was Brahms' Requiem, again in North Nibley and again with Dr. Sumsion, Cynthia Glover and James Walkley and introducing on this occasion Tony Hewitt Jones on timpani. In 1962 we moved to St. Mary's, Wotton under Edge, for Haydn's Mass in B flat where Dr. Sumsion had the pleasure of playing the famous organ which was presented by King George 1 to St. Martin's in the Fields and acquired for St. Mary's by the Vicar of Wotton in 1799. Handel played on this organ and it is possible Hadyn himself also played on it during his London visits.

One thing is very noticeable from the reports at the time. All speak of the

"obvious enjoyment" and "enormous enthusiasm" of the singers which was communicated to the audience who responded with great appreciation. (One report even spoke of "a splendid contralto line"!)). For many of us this was the beginning of a completely new way of life which we've never forgotten and, indeed, which we're still enjoying.



Friends of Tyndale Choral Society

'The Friends' continue to be an important part of the Society's support structure. So don't forget to tell people about it. The benefits of the 'Tyndale Friends Package' are a reserved seat (in the best acoustic position) at both concerts, a free programme and a complimentary interval drink and the Society newsletter. Friends are also warmly invited to Society fundraising events.

At £25 for one and £45 for a couple, this represents excellent value. It is also *a great present for friends and family* so give it some thought. For further details, please contact Kate Reeves (alto).

Forthcoming Concert Programmes

2010 Workshop with Nigel Perrin:

October 2nd, 2010:
Mendelssohn 'Elijah'

Winter 2011:

Programme to be finalised
with new conductor.

TCS is a member of the South Cotswold Choral Group - an informal forum for the officers of Cirencester, Yate, Wycliffe, Thornbury and TCS to exchange information at meetings held twice a year, and to explore possibilities for joint events. The SCCG is organising a collaborative performance of the Verdi Requiem at Tewkesbury Abbey On 4th June 2011 with the Bristol Concert Orchestra, first-class soloists and Nigel Perrin at the helm. Tyndale has opted in to this event, and we will have first refusal on 50 of the 200 singers' places. The details are as follows:

* details and enrolment forms will be available from the first rehearsal in September

* we have the following places (maximum): Sop 16, Alto 16, Ten 8, Bass 10.

** closing date for forms and cheques will be 25 October but first come first served.*

* details (rehearsal dates, etc) are on the SCCG website:

[www.tyndale-choral-society.org/
SCCG/SCCG-R1-BS.html](http://www.tyndale-choral-society.org/SCCG/SCCG-R1-BS.html)

THREE CHOIRS FESTIVAL

GLOUCESTER

I, together with Ros Wakefield and Elizabeth Young, spent the week 7th – 15th August acting as stewards at the festival. This was my fourth occasion and, as always, it was a thoroughly enjoyable week. There is always a very wide variety of music on offer and the rehearsals were, I found, very instructive. Three performances will remain in my memory for a very long time, Mahler's *2nd Symphony*, Elgar's *The Kingdom* and Monteverdi's *Orfeo*. The two last were new to me and the Monteverdi presented me with a problem of my own making. I had read it up at home but forgot my programme and, even had I not, the cathedral was dimmed to the extent that it would have been impossible to read the translation as it progressed.

The icing on the cake occurred during the interval of *The Kingdom*. I went outside and heard an unfamiliar cry above me. I looked up; there were no gulls or pigeons in sight but flying round and round the tower were two peregrine falcons. I was not aware of a nest in the cathedral or any of the neighbouring church towers, so they may have been birds fledged this year at perhaps Berkely, Oldbury or Chepstow. What a wonderful display of flying, far more exciting than even the Red Arrows, and so much apparent joie de vivre. The gulls and the pigeons were not impressed.

The whole experience, talking to performers, members of the audience and enjoying the camaraderie of the stewards, was so worthwhile. Roll on 2013.

John Ewer

TYNDALE CHORAL SOCIETY – DIARY OF EVENTS 2010

Month	Day/Date	Time	Venue	Activity	Notes
Sept	06	Monday	19:30	DMC	Rehearsal
	13	Monday	19:30	DMC	Rehearsal
	20	Monday	19:30	DMC	Rehearsal
	27	Monday	19:30	DMC	Rehearsal
October	02	Saturday	13:00	StJ	Workshop ‘Battle of the Gods’
	04	Monday	19:30	DMC	Rehearsal
	11	Monday	19:30	DMC	Rehearsal
	18	Monday	19:30	DMC	Rehearsal
	25	Monday	19:30	DMC	Rehearsal
Nov	01	Monday	19:30	DMC	Rehearsal
	08	Monday	19:30	DMC	Rehearsal
	13	Saturday	14:30 19:30	StJ StJ	Concert Rehearsal Concert

DMC: Dursley Methodist Church:
StJ: St James, Dursley

NN: North Nibley
WTH: Wotton Town Hall

StM: St Mary’s, WuE

Summer Sing

At the time of writing this, the August Summer Sing has been going for three weeks under John Hicks baton with another week to go. There has been a very good response both from Tyndale and non-Tyndale participants and the evenings have been much enjoyed - not that John gives you an easy time - he works you hard and expects a lot. Mind you, it is fun too. The two hours seem to pass very quickly. Hopefully many of those who have attended will come to the Workshop with Nigel Perrin on October 2nd. That should be a very good sing so get your bookings in!

Ed

Choir Members

Sopranos

Liz Barnes
Fiona Chandler
Mavis Church
Jenni Culverwell
Glenis Ewer
Diane Freeland
Anne Glanville
Christine Gourd
Joy Green
Clare Harrison
Marjorie Harrison
Sheelagh Hudleston
Maggie Jordan
Rosemary Lea
Jane Leslie
Lynette Magnone *L*
Doreen Manning
Marion Miller
Valerie Pedrick
Angela Pendlebury
Julie Phillips
Barbara Sanderson
Anne Shipton
Valerie Skinner
Joyce Theaker
Sandra Tucker
Ros Wakefield
Vanessa Weaver
Elaine White
Mary Wright
Elizabeth Young

Altos

Catherine Bennett
Linda Brent
Jill Brown
Jenny Coles
Sophie Cox
Suzette Darby (*Tr*)
Pam Davis
Shelagh Fitzarthur
Betty Hebditch
Jacquelin Hill
Estelle James
Monica James
Lisa Kicinski
Sally Lamerton
Lorna Lane
Christine Leeding
Francis Neale
Anne Nuttall
Julia O'Connor Beach
Kate Reeves
Wendy Richardson
Rosemary Robinson
Elizabeth Rymer
Miriam Salman
Prue Taylour
Wendy Thomas
Linda Toft
Eve Tudgay
Sue Walshaw

Tenors

Jean Dabinett
Sue Davies
John Ewer *Ch*
Peter Harney
Alastair MacLeod
Len Miller
Audrey Sewell
Andrew Young

Basses

Frank Andoh
Brian Bolsher
Mike Chambers
John Hicks *WS*
Max Holland
Brian Kitching
Vernon Lidstone
Derek Manning
Brian Neale
Brendan O'Connor
John Palmer
Roy Richards
Dick Skinner *Ed*
Michael Toft
Geoff Whiley
Roger Wyse

Titles in italics :

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