



Conductor's Notes



Welcome

We warmly welcome James Atherton as our new Conductor / Musical Director although by the time you read this, many of you will have already met him at the Improvers Course which commenced in January. So you will know by now that he is going to expect a lot of us. It is the start of a new era and, no doubt, a new approach to our singing but then that is no bad thing. Change is necessary if the choir is to develop. In any case, we have all learnt something from our various conductors. So, once again, a very warm welcome.

Dear Members,

Firstly may I say how happy I am that you chose me to be Ian Harrold's successor as Musical Director of the Tyndale Choral Society. At my audition it was clear to me that Ian has done a marvellous job with you all and I congratulate him most warmly on what he has achieved.

For those of you who don't know anything at all about me let me give you a very brief curriculum vitae.

I was born and brought up on the Lancashire Pennines near Blackburn and sang as a young man at the Cathedral there. I have sung in several Cathedral Choirs since then, namely at Chester, Lincoln (where I was the Housemaster at the Cathedral school's senior boarding house), Winchester, St. George's Chapel Windsor Castle (where amongst the many important Royal occasions I sang for the marriage of HRH Prince

Charles to Camilla Parker-Bowles). For the last 6 years I have been at Gloucester Cathedral where I combine my Lay Clerkship with a job as Voicer at Nicholson and Co. Malvern. Pipe Organ Builders. (If you want to know what a voicer is/does then you'll have to ask me!) As a conductor I have run several voluntary chamber choirs over the last 15 years or so and also my professional choir, the Glevum Consort.

The 'Improvers Course' is now under way and going very well. There has been lots of positive feedback and I think everyone feels that they are improving. It is hard work but it is fun and that for me is the essence of being a choral director. You will discover this for yourselves when we start with the Rossini in March. We have got a great team of singers together and the Piano part (which is extremely difficult) is being played by Dr. Stephen Kings. I have known him for some time now and he is, by far, one of the finest musicians and accompanists I have ever worked with. We are lucky to be having the opportunity of working with him. The Harmonium part will be played by Stephen Power, who probably needs little introduction!

I hope you are all looking forward to the forth-coming season as much as I am. Please do come and introduce yourself to me at the coffee breaks; it will be a hard task for me to remember who you all are but I will try my best.

With best wishes
James

CONCERT INFORMATION

Summer Concert

Saturday 2nd July at 7.30pm
St Mary's Church
Wotton-under-Edge.

Rossini - Petite Messe Solennelle

*with Dr Stephen Kings (piano) and
Stephen Power (harmonium).*

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

Autumn Concert

Saturday 12th November at 7.30pm
St James' Parish Church, Dursley.

Vivaldi - Magnificat and Gloria

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 coloured bow ties in the Summer, and black bow ties in the Autumn.

From the Chairman

Welcome to the new season

I hope that 2011 will be an exciting and enjoyable season for all Tyndale members. Much is new and much is changing but first I would like to celebrate past achievements.

The concert in November was outstanding. Handel's Messiah can be a challenge: the work is so well known that performers can be complacent, performances boring and audiences underwhelmed. The atmosphere in St James' Church, however, was electric; the performance had life and the exuberance was shared by both performers and audience alike. There could have been no better tribute to Ian Harrold, our past Director of Music. We wish Ian every happiness in his retirement.

Our workshop with Nigel Perrin in October was enjoyed by both members and guests. Nigel's interpretation of Elijah was exciting; by concentrating on the dramatic aspects of the work he skilfully abridged it for workshop use and led a fun packed day.

In the background, your new committee has worked tirelessly to make the changes necessary to bring the Society back from the

brink. I thank each and every one of them for their confidence, effort, perseverance and, above all, loyalty in difficult circumstances.

Now to the future.

We welcome James Atherton as our new Director of Music. The involvement of members in the audition process was outstanding; most voted and the result was almost unanimous. I won't steal James' thunder by writing more because I know that he has contributed an article of his own to this Newsletter; suffice it to say that I am really looking forward to singing with him.

In truth, many of us are already singing with James as his Improvers' Class is (as I write this) now underway. What an interesting experience! We're being treated to a depth of study that time won't allow in normal rehearsals. Furthermore, by preventing us from using traditional shortcuts, James is forcing us to think about, and practice, basic sight-reading skills.

Our first concert with James will be in July when we will perform Rossini's Petite Messe Solennelle. This lovely work was last performed by the Society in 1994; long enough in the past for us to enjoy learning and interpreting it anew.

This year, instead of having our own workshop, we are joining forces with other local societies, as members of the South Cotswold Choral Group, to perform the Verdi Requiem in Tewkesbury Abbey. (See more details later in the Newsletter).

The future, however, is not without its challenges. One significant concern is with the staging used in St James' Church for our winter concerts; feedback from those most closely involved suggests that we may have to re-evaluate its use.

With change comes excitement but also risk. Last year we had no choice but to rapidly address defects in the governance of the Society. We now have new trustees and a new Director of Music. More than ever your committee relies on *you to talk to us*; to ensure that while we attempt to secure the future we don't forget our traditions or the interests of any section of the membership. Let's all work together to make the 2011 season successful and enjoyable.

John Hicks

Diary Dates and Other Matters

Committee Meetings:

The next committee meeting is planned for Wednesday 16th March. Further meetings will take place during the season. If there are any matters which you would like to be raised, please see members of the committee in good time.

Sales Stall:

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

Fund Raising events -

Wotton Town-Hall Teas -
Monday 2nd May. Cake bakers please make a note.

Details of any other events will be announced when they become available.

From the Secretary ...

Welcome back! I don't know about you, but I felt that our triumphant 'Messiah' concert last year was one of the highlights of my choral singing experience. Wasn't it great to sing to a full house? A few of us who were taking tickets on the door of the church were a little concerned that we wouldn't be able to squeeze everyone in, but we just about managed it, though some of our audience may have felt they were on rather more intimate terms with their neighbour than they wanted! The concert was also a brilliant finale for Ian Harrold and I know that he was delighted with our performance.

As I write this, the Improvers course has been running for three weeks, with 38 TCS members and 5 guests taking part. We were all very interested to see how we would fare with our new Musical Director, James Atherton. Well, I can tell you that we are certainly improving! To say that we have been challenged is the understatement of the year. James has concentrated on helping us to improve our breathing techniques and pitching of the note. This is, as you know, a major problem for many of us who are not the most confident of singers. We don't feel sure about the note so wait for others around us to come in first! James is encouraging us to 'hear' the note in our head. This has proved to be very difficult, but a great feeling

when it is achieved! We're also enjoying the range of music on the course – from the Byrd Ave Verum to Parry's 'My Soul, there is a Country. If you were unable to come on the course but would like to have a copy of the music, I have a few spare copies for sale at £2.50 each to cover the cost of printing.

It will be interesting to see how this training will translate into the full choir when we start rehearsals for the Rossini Messe Solennelle. We last performed this work in November 1994 and I remember that it was an inspiring sing.

Following our Elijah workshop in 2010, this year TCS is joining with other choirs in The South Cotswold Choral Group to sing the Verdi Requiem at Tewksbury Abbey on 4 June. So far, 36 TCS members have signed up and there are still a few places left; the aim is to achieve a choir of 200 voices. If you would like more details, please contact Julia O'Connor-Beach on 01454 260877. The event is now open to all and is not restricted to singers who are members of local choirs.

This newsletter may be the last to be distributed in paper form as we are keen to save printing and postage costs where possible. At the moment, around three-quarters of TCS

membership have access to a computer and could receive a newsletter online. We are hoping this year to 'pair up' all those without a computer with someone who will be willing to print copies of notices, newsletters and any other useful TCS information. So, I'll be asking for volunteers to act as computer 'buddies' and if you would like to volunteer, please let me know.

The subscription fee for 2011 will be pegged at £49 for prompt payers and £50 after the 31 May (see adjacent box for more details.) Please note that the whole fee will be payable even if you only sing one concert. This is because most of our costs are fixed and we need full subscriptions from all members to cover them.

I'm very much looking forward to the 2011 season. We've got two great concerts in prospect and wouldn't it be wonderful if we could sing to capacity audiences again? See you on 21 March.

Catherine Bennett

Robin Coles

We were saddened to learn of the recent death of Robin who was a long-time supporter and Friend of the Society. Our thoughts go out to Jenny and family at this time.

Subscriptions

The subscription for 2011 stays at £49 if you pay before 31st May but will increase to £50 thereafter. If you pay tax, and have not already done so, you can fill out a Gift Aid form so that the Society can recover the tax you have paid on this amount. If you have any questions about this and to get a form please see the Treasurer, Suzette Darby (alto).

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. For a subscription of £25 single or £45 for a couple, the benefits are a reserved seat (in the best acoustic position) at both concerts, a free programme and a complimentary interval drinks served to you at your seat and the Society newsletters.

It is a great present for your friends and family. For further information, please contact the Friends Secretary, Kate Reeves (alto).

South Cotswold Choral Group

As you know, TCS is affiliated to SCCG. This initiative, formed in 2008 by Jos Gregson of Thornbury Choral Society has become far more than the mutual assistance group originally envisaged. In June participating Societies will join forces in Tewkesbury Abbey to perform the Verdi Requiem under the baton of Nigel Perrin. About 40 of our members have booked places.

Jos publishes occasional newsletters; for TCS participants these are posted on our website (library -> newsletters -> SCCG Newsletters).

Our liaison officer for SCCG matters is Catherine Bennett.

Don't forget

AGM 28th March 2011

This will take place during the rehearsal and is your opportunity to voice your ideas and concerns, and to support the committee in running the Society.

SCCG VERDI Requiem 4 June 2011 in Tewkesbury Abbey with Bristol Concert Orchestra

Many have signed up to sing in this concert. As a reminder, the rehearsal and concert information is set out below:

Rehearsals will be at:
Wycliffe College, Stonehouse on 10, 17, 24 and 31 May 2011 at 7.45pm.

OR alternatively at Christ the King Church, Thornbury on Thursdays 12, 19, 26 May and 2 June 2011 at 7.30pm.

There will be an **all day Workshop with Nigel Perrin** at the Armstrong Hall in Thornbury on Saturday 21 May from 10.00am until 5.00pm.

Full Rehearsal on Friday 3 June at the Armstrong Hall, Thornbury with Nigel Perrin from 7.30 to 9.30.

Concert rehearsal in Tewkesbury Abbey at 2.00pm Saturday 4 June.

Concert Performance at 7.30pm in Tewkesbury Abbey.

TCS Website

The website is *the* place to go for up to date information about every aspect of the society:

- start with the main **news** page for current announcements - this is where you'll 'hear it first' whether 'it' is a new event or a last minute change to an existing one
- the **calendar** is a list of events planned for the coming year (rehearsals, concerts, fundraisers and meetings; it even includes relevant information from our SCCG partners)
- the **library** contains reference information such as minutes, newsletters, concert programmes and posters
- for audience members, the **concerts** page advertises our performances and allows tickets to be reserved on-line
- the **contact us** page enables messages to be sent to committee members.

If you need information about the Society but can't find it on the website, let me know so that I can consider adding it in the future.

Please remember the on-line shop. If you use the internet you may be able to contribute to TCS funds without any cost to yourself just by linking through our **shop** page. Results for 2010 are shown below; the total of £277 fell short of the £300 earned in 2009 so clearly we could do better!

	Amazon	Musicroom	M&S	John Lewis	TktMaster	BHS	Total
1Q2010	44.65	1.38	3.22			0.4	49.65
2Q2010	65.08	4.24	1.25	26.19			96.76
3Q2010	29.33	5.19		1.32	4.2		40.04
4Q2010	68.75	11.37		11.25			91.37
Total	207.81	22.18	4.47	38.76	4.2	0.4	277.82

John Hicks

TYNDALE CHORAL SOCIETY – DIARY OF EVENTS 2011

Month	Date	Day	Time	Venue	Event	Notes
March	07	Monday	19:30	DMC	Improvers' Class	
	14	Monday	19:30	DMC	Improvers' Class	
	16	Wednesday	19:30		Committee Meeting	
	21	Monday	19:30	DMC	Rehearsal	
	28	Monday	19:30	DMC	Rehearsal	
April			21:00	DMC	AGM	
	04	Monday	19:30	DMC	Rehearsal	
	11	Monday	19:30	DMC	Rehearsal	
	18	Monday	19:30	DMC	Rehearsal	
May	02	Monday	14:00	WTH	Fundraising	Town Hall Teas
			19:30	DMC	Rehearsal	
	09	Monday	19:30	DMC	Rehearsal	
	10	Tuesday	19:30	WC	Rehearsal	SCCG Big Sing
	16	Monday	19:30	DMC	Rehearsal	
	17	Tuesday	19:30	WC	Rehearsal	SCCG Big Sing
	21	Saturday	10:00		Rehearsal	SCCG Big Sing
	23	Monday	19:30	DMC	Rehearsal	
	24	Tuesday	19:30	WC	Rehearsal	SCCG Big Sing
	31	Tuesday	19:30	WC	Rehearsal	SCCG Big Sing
June	03	Friday	19:30		Rehearsal	SCCG Big Sing
	04	Saturday	14:00	TA	Rehearsal	SCCG Big Sing
			19:30	TA	Concert	SCCG Big Sing
	06	Monday	19:30	DMC	Rehearsal	
	13	Monday	19:30	DMC	Rehearsal	
	20	Monday	19:30	DMC	Rehearsal	
	27	Monday	19:30	StM	Rehearsal	
July	02	Saturday	14:30	StM	Rehearsal	
			19:30	StM	Concert	
	04	Monday	19:30	DMC	Rehearsal	
	11	Monday	19:30	DMC	Rehearsal	
	18	Monday	19:30	DMC	Rehearsal	
	25	Monday	19:30	DMC	Rehearsal	
September	05	Monday	19:30	DMC	Rehearsal	
	12	Monday	19:30	DMC	Rehearsal	
	19	Monday	19:30	DMC	Rehearsal	
	26	Monday	19:30	DMC	Rehearsal	
October	03	Monday	19:30	DMC	Rehearsal	
	10	Monday	19:30	DMC	Rehearsal	
	18	Monday	19:30	DMC	Rehearsal	
	17	Monday	19:30	DMC	Rehearsal	
	24	Monday	19:30	DMC	Rehearsal	
	01	Monday	19:30	DMC	Rehearsal	
November	07	Monday	19:30	DMC	Rehearsal	
	12	Saturday	19:30	StJ	Concert	

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

NN: North Nibley
WTH: Wotton Town Hall

StM: St Mary's, WuE

Committee members for 2011

President

John Ewer

Officers

John Hicks (chairman and trustee)

Catherine Bennett (secretary and trustee)

Suzette Darby (treasurer and trustee)

Marion Miller (events manager and trustee)

Committee Members:

Linda Brent (trustee)

Brian Kitching (trustee)

Lynette Magnone (trustee)

Julie Phillips (trustee)

Dick Skinner (trustee)

Other principal roles:

James Atherton (director of music)

James Corbett (accompanist)

Kate Reeves (friends secretary)

Choir Members

Sopranos

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

Altos

Catherine Bennett *Sec*
Linda Brent *PS*
Jill Brown
Jenny Coles
Sophie Cox
Suzette Darby *Tr*
Pam Davis
Shelagh Fitzarthur
Betty Hebditch
Jacquelin Hill
Estelle James
Monica James
Sally Lamerton
Lorna Lane
Christine Leeding
Angela McNair
Anne Nuttall
Lisa Randell
Indigo Redfern
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
Peter Harney
Alastair MacLeod
Len Miller
Francis Neale
Audrey Sewell
Mark Wright-Davies
Andrew Young

Basses

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

Titles in italics :

Ch - Chairman

Sec - Secretary Tr - Treasurer: EM - Events Manager

L - Librarian

PS - Publicity Sec WS - Web Site

Ed - Editor