

# Waltham Singers newsletter

Issue No 55  
August 2014

## From the Chair...

Everything seems to be early in the calendar this summer. Autumnal weather, the harvest, even the Bank holiday weekend is as early as it can be. So it should be no surprise that our 2014-15 season is already upon us.

I hope you have enjoyed the summer break, although I am sure we have all been saddened recently by the news of Chris Wall's untimely death. The response to the call for a choir to sing at Chris' funeral shows the affection in which Chris was held. We shall miss her.

Our season begins with the Open Rehearsal on Thursday, 4th September at the usual time of 8.00 pm in St Cedd's School Hall. Do invite potential new members to join us that evening: tenors and sopranos would be particularly welcome.

This term's music is Duruflé's *Requiem* and the Bliss *Pastoral – Lie strewn the white flocks* and the focus of the term is our concert in Chelmsford Cathedral on 29th November. We will be accompanied that evening by St Paul's Sinfonia, an orchestra that is new to us, but comes with high expectations, and our soloists will be Kate Symonds-Joy (soprano) and Charles Rice (baritone). In addition to the choral works, the orchestra will play Vaughan Williams' *Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis*.

The season continues after Christmas with *Baroque Treasures*, a programme of wonderful music by Biber, Zelenka and Vivaldi. Biber and Zelenka may be less well-known composers, but I think you will agree they deserve a higher profile. The concert is on 14th March 2015 at KEGS and we will be joined once more by the excellent Meridien Sinfonia for what promises to be an exciting evening.

In the summer we return to Great Waltham for a programme titled *A Sense of Place* comprising music evocative of specific locations with works by Elgar, Chilcott and Maxwell Davies as well as a new piece by Jeffery Wilson.

Forty members attended the Annual General Meeting at the end of last term and there was some good discussion on a number of topics. Draft minutes and a copy of the Chairman's and Musical Director's reports will be circulated shortly and the new committee will be taking forward many of the items raised. I appreciate that not everybody can make it to the AGM, but I would ask that you note the date in your diaries now for next year's AGM, 25th June 2015, as it is important that as many members as possible take part in our discussions on those occasions. It was good to see two new committee members elected, Ian Aim and Sarah Bakewell, and our thanks is also due to those who stood for re-election, Mike Catterall, Kate Hanson, Sabine Nussey, Jemma Parker, Nadia Smart, Jenny Tait and Mike Wall.

As ever there are a number of tasks that do not require a committee position, which any of you, as members of the choir, may be in a position to help with. I shall announce details of these at rehearsals and look forward to being knocked down in the rush!

Marion Garrett, one of our long-standing members, has decided to retire from the choir after nearly 30 years. Marion, we wish you well and look forward to seeing you in our audiences. Also, I am sure you will all be pleased to know that Nick Castell became father to young Oliver on 22 August.

I look forward to seeing you all at St Cedd's on Thursday, 4th September.

Best wishes  
Gerald Malton

*Review:*  
**WALTHAM SINGERS**  
**Great is the Lord**  
**21.06.2014**



Music in Waltham for a June evening has been a fixture in the calendar since I began reviewing more than 40 years ago. This year's concert, by the always impressive Waltham Singers under Andrew Fardell, was a varied selection of sacred music.

The home team was represented by Edward Elgar – his solemn, often dramatic *Great Is The Lord* – capped by that Balfour Gardiner warhorse, *Evening Hymn*, for eight-part choir and organ, with its dense harmonies and soaring architecture. William H Harris's contemplative setting of Donne, Howells' *Salve Regina* with Annabel Malton the solo soprano, and an upbeat motet by Stanford completed the English contribution.

The visitors fielded Monteverdi – exquisite late polyphony from Venice – his successor at San Marco, Antonio Lotti, whose *Crucifixus* was appropriately programmed just before the Credo, and Widor, represented here by a gloriously ostentatious Eastertide motet for choir and organ, with the stirring accompaniment played by Laurence Lyndon-Jones.

The Monteverdi sounded clear and immediate in this acoustic, and the Lotti, a wonderful showcase for the choir, was beautifully crafted, as the sound builds in this tense, anguished setting.

The choral contributions were interspersed with an equally eclectic selection from the Williams Kelleher Guitar Duo, including early English lute music – *Echo*, by Chester cleric Francis Pilkington, a charming version of *Greensleeves* – and a colourful group of pieces by the contemporary Argentine composer Pujol.

Michael Gray – June 2014

<http://michaelgray.blogspot.co.uk/2014/06/great-is-lord.html>

*Committee meetings:*

The next committee meeting will be held on 17th September.  
If there are any matters you would like to be considered by the committee,  
please advise Gerald Malton or Jemma Parker in advance.

# Dates for your Diary

Autumn Term 2014			
Thursday 4 September	8.00 pm	St Cedd's School	First rehearsal of term and Open Rehearsal
Sunday, 23 November	2.00 - 4.00 pm	Gt Waltham Church	Pre-concert Sunday rehearsal
Thursday, 27 November	8.00 pm	St Cedd's School	Last rehearsal of term
Saturday, 29 November	2.30 - 5.30 pm	Chelmsford Cathedral	Concert day rehearsal (Note timing)
Saturday, 29 November	7.30 pm	Chelmsford Cathedral	Concert: Duruflé and Bliss
Spring Term 2015			
Thursday, 8 January	8.00 pm	St Cedd's School	First rehearsal of term
t.b.a. February	7.00 pm	Hulton Hall, Gt Waltham	Quiz Night
Sunday, 8 March	2.00 - 4.00 pm	Gt Waltham Church	Pre-concert Sunday rehearsal
Saturday, 14 March	1.00 - 4.00 pm	KEGS	Concert day rehearsal
Saturday, 14 March	7.30 pm	KEGS	Concert: Baroque Treasures
Thursday, 26 March	8.00 pm	St Cedd's School	Last rehearsal of term
Summer Term 2015			
Thursday, 16 April	8.00 pm	St Cedd's School	First rehearsal of term
Sunday, 14 June	2.00 - 4.00 pm	Gt Waltham Church	Pre-concert Sunday rehearsal
Thursday, 18 June	8.00 pm	St Cedd's School	Last rehearsal of term
Saturday, 20 June	1.00 - 4.00 pm	Gt Waltham Church	Concert day rehearsal
Saturday, 20 June	7.30 pm	Gt Waltham Church	Concert: A Sense of Place
Thursday, 25 June	8.00 pm	St Cedd's School	Annual General Meeting
Future Concert Dates			
Saturday, 21 November 2015	7.30 pm	Chelmsford Cathedral	<i>Elijah</i>
Saturday, 12 March 2016	7.30 pm	KEGS	
Saturday, 18 June 2016	7.30 pm	Gt Waltham Church	

## 50:50 Club News:

### Winners for Draw 66 are:-

**£50: Teresa Downs    £30: Sylvia Craig**

**£30: Marion Garrett    £20: Charlotte Malton    £20: Judith Clancy    £15: Chris Wall**

If you would like a number (or numbers, max 5) they cost £12 and we have three prize draws a year. Half the income is returned in prizes and the other half helps to support our concert programme. Please see Mike Wall for an application form, or pick one up at rehearsals from near the notice board.