

Waltham Singers newsletter

Issue No 51
April 2013

From the Chair...

I hope you have had a good Easter break and are looking forward to the Summer Term. Summer? – as I write this the snow has been falling on and off most of the day and it is 2°C!

We had the opportunity at the end of last term to reflect on a very satisfying Verdi Requiem. Two afterthoughts. It was pleasing that Paul Patterson, our Patron, took the trouble to come to the afternoon rehearsal even though he could not stay for the concert. It was also excellent to be performing to a full Cathedral and “Congratulations!” again to all who sold tickets to achieve that.

The celebratory 40th Anniversary mood continues this term with the programme for our summer concert on 22nd June, which encompasses a wide range of music from Tallis in the 16th century at the Chapel Royal through to the lighter genre of the King’s Singers. We also have our tour to Venice at the end of May and finish the season with the Annual Review Meeting on 27th June and the Barbecue (it must be warm by then!) on Sunday, 30th June.

I should draw your attention to a future diary date that I strongly encourage you to set aside. On 12th October 2013 we are holding a workshop day with members of the Orlando Consort. Matt Venner (countertenor) and Don Grieg (bass), who sang with us in the Mantra concert in June 2011, will be giving us an insight into early choral music leading up to Monteverdi’s Misa O Magnum Mysterium, which is to be the centrepiece of our concert in June 2014. The workshop will be at St Cedd’s School and we very much hope everyone will attend. Further details will follow nearer the time.

May I remind you of a couple of fund-raising initiatives that are rather under-utilised at present? The Giving Machine is a way of supporting the Waltham Singers whenever you shop online. Most of the major retailers participate in the scheme and, if you open The Giving Machine website before clicking through to the relevant retailer, then each purchase also results in a donation by the retailer to the Waltham Singers at no extra cost to you. It is very easy to register: please give it a try. <http://www.thegivingmachine.co.uk/>

At the end of each term we hold our 50:50 club draw. The idea is simple: tickets cost £12 a year, 50% of the cost of each ticket is a donation to the Waltham Singers, the other 50% forms part of the prize fund and there are three draws each year with a top prize currently of £50. If you don’t have a ticket (or two or more) Mike Wall will be pleased to provide. You’ve got to be in it to win it, as they say.

There are also two non-financial ways, in which you may be able to support the choir. Anne-Dore, who has been our librarian for the past three seasons, is to retire at this year’s AGM and the choir needs someone else to take on this role. If you could help in that way, do please let Anne-Dore or me know early on, as there are lead times in arranging hire of music for the Autumn Term.

Secondly, does anyone have the appropriate equipment to provide a video link for the June concert so that the organist can readily see Andrew’s beat? If you do, please let Mike Catterall or myself know.

I am sure that you will already have in the diary that we resume rehearsals for on Thursday, 18th April at 8.00 pm in St Cedd’s School Hall. I look forward to seeing you all again there.

Best wishes,

Gerald Malton

Review:
WALTHAM SINGERS
Verdi Requiem in Chelmsford Cathedral
16.03.2012

Celebrating forty years of music-making, the Waltham Singers filled Chelmsford Cathedral with Verdi's gloriously theatrical Requiem.

Andrew Fardell has been at the helm for most of those years, and his inspirational direction was never more in evidence than here (the breathless silence after the final bars a measure of the effect of this memorable milestone): the dramatic dynamics were carefully measured, allowing some effects of contrast – hushed murmured “requiem aeternam” against apocalyptic “dies irae” – which counted for much more than mere firepower. The thundering drum beats were given added impact by a brisk tempo and excellent diction from the choir, who were on magnificent form here, especially in the closing Libera Me, the energetic double chorus Sanctus and the sincerely sung Agnus Dei.

Mixed fortunes from our quartet of soloists: Phillip Joll's baritone was a commanding presence, and John Pierce's tenor made a fine entry in the Kyrie, and a polished Hostia. When the voices of Sarah Pring and Kimberly Myers blended, in the Recordare, say, or the Agnus Dei, the result was spell-binding. And Verdi would surely have approved of Myers' fervent prayer in the moving final moments, serendipitously backed by the chimes of the Cathedral clock.

The orchestra was the splendid Salomon, making a huge contribution to the impact of this performance, with superb work from the brass, not least the trumpets sounding the Tuba Mirum.

Michael Gray – March 2013

<http://michaelgray.blogspot.co.uk/2013/03/verdi-requiem.html>

50:50 Club News:

Winners for Draw 63 are:-

£50: Martin Herbert £30: Frances Harrison
£20: Chris Wall £20: Sylvia Craig £15: Sue Weatherly

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.

Committee meetings:

The next Committee meeting will be held on 1st May,
with the last for this year being 5th June.

If there are any matters you would like to be considered by the committee,
please advise Gerald Malton or Jemma Parker in advance of this date.

Dates for your Diary

Summer Term 2013

Thursday 18 April	8.00 pm	St Cedd's School	First rehearsal of term
Thursday 23 May	8.00 pm	Gt Waltham Church	Rehearsal for touring party only
Friday 24 - Tuesday 28 May		Venice	Tour
Sunday 16 June	2.00 - 4.00 pm	Gt Waltham Church	Pre-concert rehearsal
Thursday 20 June	8.00 pm	Gt Waltham Church	Last rehearsal of term
Saturday 22 June	1.00 - 4.00 pm	Gt Waltham Church	Rehearsal
Saturday 22 June	7.30 pm	Gt Waltham Church	Concert: A Summer Celebration
Thursday 27 June	8.00 pm	St Cedd's School	Annual Review Meeting
Sunday 30 June	12.30 pm	Foxtons	Barbecue

Autumn Term 2013

Thursday 5 September 2013	8.00 pm	St Cedd's School	First rehearsal of term and Open Rehearsal
Thursday 3 October	8.00pm/9.30pm	St Cedd's School	Rehearsal and AGM
Saturday 12 October	10.00 am - 5.00 pm	St Cedd's School	Workshop Day with the Orlando Consort
Sunday 10 November	2.00 - 4.00 pm	Gt Waltham Church	Pre-conert rehearsal
Saturday 16 November	1.00 - 4.00 pm	Chelmsfrod Cathedral	Rehearsal
Saturday 16 November	7.30 pm	Chelmsford Cathedral	Concert: A Sea Symphony
Thursday 21 November	8.00 pm	St Cedd's School	Rehearsals resume for carol concert
Thursday 28 November	8.00 pm	St Cedd's School	Last rehearsal of term
Wednesday 4 December	6.30 pm	Chelmsford Cathedral	Rehearsal
Wednesday 4 December	7.30 pm	Chelmsford Cathedral	Mencap Carol Concert

Future Concert Dates

Saturday 15 March 2014	7.30 pm	KEGS	The music of Mozart
Saturday 21 June 2014	7.30 pm	Gt Waltham Church	
Saturday 29 November 2014	7.30 pm	Chelmsford Cathedral	
Saturday 14 March 2015	7.30 pm	KEGS	
Saturday 20 June 2015	7.30 pm	Gt Waltham Church	