

Waltham Singers newsletter

Issue No 50
January 2013

From the Chair...

A Happy New Year to you all.

I hope you have all had an enjoyable Christmas break and feel ready to start working towards the centrepiece of our 40th Anniversary season, Verdi's *Requiem*.

Before looking at what lies ahead, December's concert definitely merits a backward glance – it was a good concert. It was pleasing to see the church so full and to be singing to such a good audience, attracted no doubt by Vivaldi's *Gloria*, but equally captivated (from what I hear) by some of the smaller-scale works we performed. It was the first time in twenty years that I had not been available in the morning to set up the church for the concert, so I am particularly grateful to Mike Catterall, David Lloyd and others in the staging party who ensured that all was in place.

I also want to thank Jenny Tait and Helen Smith for their production of the Recipe Book and indeed all those who contributed to it. Given the traditional seasonal fare, I doubt many have yet experimented with the contents, but I trust in due course taste buds are suitably tingled!

We have received most generous sponsorship from M&G Investments towards the costs of the Verdi concert enabling us to engage first-class soloists. There was one late change to the line-up just before Christmas and our bass will now be Phillip Joll, who joins Susan Gritton (soprano), Sarah Pring (mezzo) and John Pierce (tenor). Susan Gritton's solos in our performance of Mozart's C-minor mass in 1994 still linger fondly in my memory and I encourage you to sell this concert as hard as you can to all your friends. They will not thank you if they miss this quartet of soloists.

After the concert on 16th March, we have a party for choir members and their partners and Friends of the choir in the Chapter House at the Cathedral. Regrettably, there simply is not room to invite all of our audience, but do please join us if you can to celebrate the choir's 40th anniversary.

Before the concert, we have the Quiz Night on Saturday, 9th February 2013 starting at 7.30 pm in the Hulton Hall in Great Waltham. If you have taken part before, then you know what an entertaining evening this is. If you haven't, do form your own team or join someone else's – it's good fun! We are grateful to Richard Eason for being our quiz-master again.

Looking further ahead, the tour to Venice runs from Friday 24th May to Tuesday 28th May 2013. It is not too late to join us, as there are still some places available where others have regrettably had to cancel. Do please let me know as soon as possible if you would like to take up these spaces, because otherwise I shall have to release the rooms. For those who are travelling with us, the final payment falls due on 15th February at the latest and I shall advise you of the outstanding balance in the coming week or two.

There is one matter with which we need your help please. The choir is still looking for someone to take on the role of Friends' Secretary, corresponding with Friends of the choir who generously support us both financially and in other ways. It is an important role, but not unduly onerous and would not require you to join the committee. Mandy Welchman held the post for many years and either she or I can provide more detail. If you feel you may be able to help with this part of our activities, do please let me know.

Our first rehearsal this term is on Thursday, 10th January in St Cedd's School Hall from 8.00 to 10.00 pm as usual. I look forward to seeing you all there.

Gerald Malton

Review:

WALTHAM SINGERS
Christmas Concert at the Parish Church
08.12.2012

A Yuletide cornucopia from Andrew Fardell and the Waltham Singers, avoiding the obvious and celebrating the coming of the Light of the World.

James MacMillan's muscular *O Radiant Dawn* made an impressive opener, one of several works by living composers, including Colin Mawby's late-flowering Romantic *Ave Maria*, Morten Lauridsen's hypnotic *O Magnum Mysterium*, and Eric Whitacre's justly famous *Lux Aurumque*, performed with filigree-fine vocal textures.

With the Meridian Sinfonia, the Singers gave us a fine Vivaldi *Gloria* to finish, with solos from Geoff Coates' oboe, Richard Fomison's natural trumpet, Sarah Potter, soprano, and Edward McMullan, counter-tenor, who also sang 'But Who May Abide', from *Messiah*, before the choir's 'For Unto Us', beautifully realised, the placing of the voices bringing out the drama and the power of Handel's choral writing.

Under Andrew Fardell, their Musical Director for the past 30 years, the Waltham Singers' sound is strong, agile and disciplined; their audience packed the church. They celebrate 40 years in 2013, with Verdi's *Requiem* in Chelmsford Cathedral.

Michael Gray – December 2012

<http://michaelgray.blogspot.co.uk/2012/12/waltham-singers.html?m=0>

50:50 Club News:

Winners for Draw 63 are:-

£50: Martin Herbert £30: Lesley Williams

£25: Christine Eason £20: Bob Cowlin £15: Anne Dore Beaton

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.

Waltham Singers Quiz Night 2013

Saturday 9th February Hulton Hall, Great Waltham

Doors (and bar) open 7.00 pm for prompt Quiz start at 7.30 pm

Richard is promising us a Dirty, Flat, Fun Quiz!!

NO SOAP (dirty)

NO POP (flat)

TEASING NOT TESTING (fun)

Teams of 8 – book your table with Mike Wall - £10 per head - pay on the night.

Supper included in the price, and there will be a bar selling wine, beer and soft drinks.

All proceeds will help to support our concert programme.

Numbers are limited so book your table now by emailing mikejwall@hotmail.com

Committee meetings:

The next Committee meeting will be held on 16th January, with future dates being 27th February, 1st May and 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

Spring Term 2013

Thursday 10 January	8.00 pm	St Cedd's School	First rehearsal of term
Saturday 9 February	7.30 pm	Hulton Hall	Quiz Night
Sunday 10 March	2.00 - 4.00 pm	Gt Waltham Church	Pre-concert rehearsal
Saturday 16 March	1.00 - 4.00 pm	Chelmsford Cathedral	Rehearsal
Saturday 16 March	7.30 pm	Chelmsford Cathedral	Verdi <i>Requiem</i> 40th Anniversary Concert

Summer Term 2013

Thursday 18 April	8.00 pm	St Cedd's School	First rehearsal of term
Thursday 23 May	8.00 pm	St Cedd's School	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	St Cedd's School	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

Future Concert Dates

Saturday 16 November 2013	7.30 pm	Chelmsford Cathedral	Vaughan Williams: <i>A Sea Symphony</i>
Wednesday 4 December 2013	7.30 pm	Chelmsford Cathedral	Mencap Carol Concert
Saturday 15 March 2014	7.30 pm	KEGS	The music of Mozart
Saturday 21 June 2014	7.30 pm	Gt Waltham Church	

Recipe Book:

Thank you to all those who contributed recipes.
Please note that we still have lots of copies which will continue to be sold at rehearsals.
If you are able to take some copies to sell at home or at work, please talk to Jennifer Tait.

