

# *Beaminster Singers*

## *Newsletter No. 17 (August 2010)*

Musical Director - Hilary Kenway

Chairman - Kit White

Welcome to this edition of our Newsletter which we hope will keep you informed of what is going on in the choir.

### **Summer 2010**

Our performance Haydn's '*Little Organ Mass*' for the evening service at the Roman Catholic church in Bridport on May 29th seemed to go down well. It was interesting to sing the work in the context for which it was originally written.

Sadly the concert in Milton Abbey in July was not well supported and there were many unoccupied seats in the church. However, after the concert Hilary had an effusive letter of thanks from the School Chaplain: *...thank you so much for coming last Sunday with your fabulous Choir to help us raise money for our electrics and lighting. The concert was truly memorable and so professional. You really have such a gifted choir.....*

A few days later we sang for a wedding, also in Milton Abbey. After the wedding we had many complimentary comments. Apparently the bridegroom jumped of his skin when we suddenly came in at full volume in *Zadok the Priest* as he was signing the registers. After the wedding the bride and bridegroom wrote to Hilary to thank her for the contribution of the choir: An extract from their letter is included on page 2.

### **The 2010/2011 season**

Rehearsals start again on Wednesday 8th September at 7.30pm in St John's RC church in Beaminster. Please could you come early to this rehearsal to allow time for music to be given out.

The autumn concert is on November 27th in St Mary's Beaminster and will include the following works:

*Magnificat in D* (Bach)  
*St Nicholas Mass* (Haydn)  
*Tantum ergo* (Vierne)  
*I was glad* (Parry)  
*Stabat Mater* (Verdi)

Tickets will be on sale in October. £12 for adults, children under 12—no charge.

Our summer concert for 2011 will be on Satur-

day 21st May 2011 in St Mary's Beaminster and we shall be performing Vaughan Williams' *Serenade to Music* and Beethoven's *Mass in C*.

Our reputation as a choir has meant that we have been asked to do some further fund raising concerts. These are currently under discussion between Hilary and those who have requested them. The committee has agreed however, that we would accept an invitation to do another fund raising concert in Milton Abbey sometime in June 2011.

### **Subscription**

After very serious consideration the committee has agreed that the subscription for the 2010/2011 season should be raised to £25 per term. The committee regrets that it has had to do this but is necessary to cover the cost of hiring music together with the orchestra and soloists for our concerts.

We ask that subscriptions are paid to Mandy by the third week of the term.

Don't forget that, as a Charity, we can claim gift aid on all subscriptions from anyone who is a UK taxpayer

### **News of members.**

Daphne Mundy has decided not to rejoin the choir this autumn and Jo Barnes is returning to Australia. Alan Williams is not available this autumn but hopes to join us again in January. We are delighted to welcome back David Wills after his illness. We are pleased to welcome David Simkins to the tenor section; David joined us for the Milton Abbey concert to boost the tenor line.

### **Website**

We have an excellent website ( [beaminstersingers.org](http://beaminstersingers.org) ) maintained by Mandy. As well as giving information about the choir and what we offer you will also find downloadable midi files of the music for our next concert. These are particularly useful for practice between rehearsals.

## Your suggestions list

Hilary writes:

Thank you all for your suggestions: a very creative and challenging list. We had a good look at it during our Summer Committee Meeting and here's the outcome.

*Elijah* needs greater forces in the tenor department than we own at the moment, as does *Blest pair of Sirens* (a piece I would personally love to do some time).

The choir has already performed recently *Requiem* (Rutter) and *Magnificat* (Pergolesi).

NES are about to perform or have performed very recently the following works, *Carmina Burana* (Orff) and *Requiem* (Durufle).

I have the following at the top my list to slot in somehow soon:

*Mass in C minor* (Mozart), *St Cecilia Mass* (Gounod), *Stabat Mater* (Pergolesi), *5 Mystical songs* (Vaughan Williams)

We shall be presenting the Vaughan Williams *Serenade to Music* together with Beethoven's *Mass in C* on May 21st 2011.

I hope to offer a programme of English Music at some time which could, of course, include a Chandos Anthem (I tend to steer away from wall to wall Handel fugal writing in one concert, so note the singular Anthem!). We could also include Delius, Cecilia MacDowall, Britten Purcell, Stanford...the list is endless.

We can forget the huge works like Verdi *Requiem*/*Dream of Gernontius*/*Belschazzar's Feast* until we can join another choir in a larger auditorium.

We are also considering a programme of brass/choral music ie. Gabrielli, Vivaldi etc.

Short, choral 'a capella' or with piano/organ pieces by Arvo Part and Rutter are always possible stocking fillers. I have to admit that I couldn't do a Karl Jenkins piece justice, let alone live with rehearsing it for an extended period, so save that till I have had my hip operation!

## Social and Fund raising events

It has been a successful year with our social and fund raising events. As has been said in this newsletter in the past the costs of running the choir are greater than the income from termly subscriptions and so income from these events enables us to have a higher standard of soloists and orchestra than otherwise might be the case. They also have the advantage of allowing us to get to know each other in the choir in a way that is not possible at our regular rehearsals.

## Annual General Meeting

Please note that the Annual General Meeting will take place on November 17th 2010.

## Making Music

This is a national organisation dedicated to supporting music making in all its forms throughout the country. It offers a wide range of training courses, choral workshops etc. Brian Ridley is our representative. If you are inter-

ested to know more about the organisation and what it offers, have a word with Brian.

## Membership

The size of our choir is limited by the capacity of both our concert and rehearsal venues which mean that we cannot take new members at the moment except in special circumstances although we do have vacancies in the tenor section.

The committee would like to remind members that rehearsals in the three weeks running up to a concert should be a priority and it the Musical Director's decision if a member who has missed rehearsals in that period should sing in the concert.

Members are also reminded that they should let either Hilary (01308 862 009) or Sue Roberts (01308 863 611) know if they cannot attend a rehearsal.

An extract from the letter of thanks from the bride and bridegroom of the Milton Abbey Wedding on 17th July.

The Beaminster Singers were nothing less than the cornerstone of our lovely ceremony and I'm fairly certain that I can say, without danger of contradiction, that every single one of our guests was genuinely moved by your singing (coupled, of course, with Trevor's impressive accompaniment).

In fact we did have some amateur video of the service and although it's not the best footage, we have watched 'Zadok, and 'I was glad' many times this last month and will never forget the sound of your choir filling Milton Abbey with such wondrous voices.....I know I'll never tire of hearing your rendition of those splendid anthems.

Please pass on our sincere thanks to all the choristers who joined you on our special day; we felt very honoured that so many of you turned out and the effect was simply stunning; I'm smiling now just thinking about the open vocal bars of 'Zadok' that were so breathtaking.

## Committee

Chairman—Kit White  
Musical Director—Hilary Kenway  
Secretary—Sue Roberts  
Treasurer—Mandy Alford  
Librarian - Sheila Furse  
Making Music Representative—Brian Ridley  
Ordinary members—Sue Counsell, Catriona MacPhee, Eleanor Moore, John Greenbank, Brian Godfrey.