

Beaminster Singers

Occasional Newsletter No. 11.

Summer 2008.

Musical Director: Hilary Kenway.

Chairman: Kit White

Welcome to edition 11 of our occasional newsletter. As usual there is a lot going on and we hope our newsletters keep you up to date.

From our Musical Director

Looking back over the past 2007/8 season has made me realise just what a sparkling anniversary year it has been. Our 20th anniversary Mozart/Charpentier concert was nothing short of a triumph – and we have the cd to prove it! Our membership has soared and I believe we now have around 70 on our books. We shall have to hire the Albert Hall if we expand any further.

The Autumn session contained two highly successful performances in St Mary's as well as our debut singing as "Rent-an-Opera-Chorus" for English Touring Opera. Reviews and comments have been consistently favourable, including the words "magnificent" and "impressive" more times than I could count. Compliments about diction, rhythm, tuning and tone abounded and every critic observed how happy the choir appeared as they sang and with what energy they performed.

We are fast becoming the "house choir" for Milton Abbey weddings. I know for a fact that our name is at the top of the list that the wedding co-ordinator gives to prospective bridal couples. Flattering though this might be, it does presuppose that people are happy to give up a Saturday to sing there as well as an evening to rehearse. On the more positive side, it is a way of making money for the choir whilst making wonderful music in a magnificent setting. It also stops people getting withdrawal symptoms on Wednesday nights during the summer months!

Musically, I am so proud of you all that I could burst. I know we shall continue working to produce even more amazing results. The commitment, good-humour and evident hard work that is put in by everyone is indeed "impressive". I only hope Alan Edwards is looking down on us in our twentieth year and patting himself on the back for having started it all off.

Hilary Kenway

Gala Dinner

Many thanks to John Coley for organising an excellent Gala Dinner at Lyme Regis Golf Club at the end of May. It a splendid evening with a first rate meal and a good band that attracted many couples on to the dance floor. There were many generous prize for the raffle and the editor ended up with two season passes for the Wiscombe Hill Climb. He had a fascinating day at the July meeting and was even allowed to sit in the Pilbeam racing car.

Come and Sing

Come and sing Bach's B Minor Mass from scratch on Saturday 6th September at Beaminster School. Registration is at 9.30am. Rehearsals start at 10.00am and there is an informal performance at 5.00pm. Cost is £10 for adults, £5 for students. Scores available for hire on the day £12. Audience tickets - £5.

Do pass the word round and invite your friends at least to the performance, if not for the whole day.

Sponsored Walk

Saturday September 27th

It's sponsored walk time again!. The itinerary hasn't been finalised yet but for those who are new to the Singers, this annual event is an enjoyable and sociable fundraiser. We aim for a moderate walk of about 6—7 miles through the Dorset countryside, incorporating a suitable watering hole either at the end or at a point en route (or both). Those who are fit and able to do the walk seek sponsorship from those less able. Both walkers and sponsors are welcome at the aforementioned watering hole(s). Forms will be sent out, along with the intended route, at the beginning of September.

Milton Abbey Wedding

The choir have been asked to sing again at a Wedding at Milton Abbey on Saturday 16th August. **Please let Sue Roberts know if you might be available asap** ks.roberts@uwclub.net 01308 863611 .

Rehearsal—7.30pm Wednesday 13th August in Stoke Abbott village hall. Please make sure you come with music for this rehearsal (details overleaf) which can be downloaded from the website - www.beaminstersingers.org.

We shall be singing:

The Wedding March from Lohengrin

Jesu joy of man's desiring.

Hymns:

Crown him with many crowns (tune,

Diademata) [CP166]

Love divine (tune, Blaenwern) [CP 516]

O Lord my God [CP 262]

Dress: men—dark suits; ladies—black.

The wedding is at 1.00pm. Please arrive at 11.15am for a rehearsal.

Subscription

The subscription for the coming session is £20.

Cheques payable to 'Beaminster Singers' please.

If you are a taxpayer and are prepared to Gift Aid your subscription please contact Mandy. If you have already signed up for Gift Aid you do not need to do anything more.

Please ensure that your subscription is paid before the end of the third week of the session. Mandy is always pleased to receive subscriptions by post before the session begins at Shepherds' Crook, Netherbury, Bridport, DT6 5LY.

Autumn Term

The choir resumes on Wednesday 3rd September in St John's Roman Catholic Church. Rehearsals start at 7.30pm but members are asked to come early on this occasion since there is a lot of music to be handed out.

Future dates.

Saturday December 13th 2008.

In dulci jubilo - an Advent Concert which will include Christmas music from Handel's *Messiah*, Mozart's *Mass in C major*, Arthur Somervell's *Christmas Cantata*.

Wednesday December 17th 2008.

The choir have been asked to sing at a Wassail Event at the Hare and Hounds Waytown. More details to follow.

Saturday February 21st 2009.

Joint Concert with the New Elizabethan Singers In Bridport. The programme includes Vivaldi's *Dixit Dominus* and the last movement of Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony*.

Saturday November 21st 2009.

Autumn Concert in St Mary's Beaminster

Saturday December 12th 2009.

Carol Concert in St Mary's Beaminster.

Website

Don't forget that we have an excellent website with lots of information about the choir. Mandy puts music for weddings and concerts on the website for members to download.

If you have to miss a rehearsal there is a place where you can find out what was covered the rehearsal you missed.

Publicity

Please make an effort to publicise choir events, especially in the run up to a concert.. There are always plenty of handbills and posters for you to take and distribute.

Fund raising

We are so grateful for all those who raise funds for the choir. These are an invaluable source of income helping to pay for the excellent soloists Hilary recruits for the concerts as well as the orchestra. Among the fund raising events we have had during the summer was the Coffee Morning and Plant Sale organised by David and Mary Wills. Later in the summer Brian Godfrey led a Summer Stroll on Powerstock Common.

Coming up is the Sponsored Walk which Pat Kennedy is organising—see details elsewhere.

And of course there is the weekly raffle which Caroline Carless is responsible for.

If you have any ideas for a fund raising event that you'd be prepared to organise please don't hesitate to mention it to one of the committee

Committee and contacts

Chairman - Kit White (01308 868550)
Musical Director - Hilary Kenway (01308 862099)
Secretary - Sue Roberts (01308 863611)
Treasurer - Mandy Alford (01308 488635)
Librarian - Sheila Furse (01308 867914)
Making music representative - Brian Ridley
(01308 867026)

Committee members

Derek Ambross (01308 458906)

Brian Godfrey (01300 320833)

Pat Kennedy (01308 862079)

Lorna MacLeod (01935 891516)

Barry Rutherford (01300 321267)

AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Singers will be on Wednesday 19th November following a shortened rehearsal. Please consider whether you would be prepared to stand for election to the committee. New members would be very welcome

Membership

At the moment we have as many members as can reasonably be accommodated in both St John's for rehearsals and St Mary's for concerts. The only section which is (always) looking to recruit members is the tenor section.

However we are always pleased to hear from anyone interested in joining the choir and are happy to put them on a waiting list.