

Newsletter - March 2016



Spring Concert



The selection of Easter music from Messiah and opera favourites was very well received by our audience.

The choir, musicians and soloists including our baritone, James, filled the church with wonderful music.

David Calver took some great photos that can be accessed via

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/caltours/25436265350/in/album-72157665649099452/>

Message from James -

Many congratulations to you all for Saturday's success both in the concert and on the rugby pitch 😊 no more to say on the latter! The Welsh were certainly quieter in rehearsals - I'm waiting on the reaction from the Anglo-Welsh contingency at Canoldir!

I was stopped at New Street on my way to Wales by a most enthusiastic lady who was full of praise for your singing, especially the Handel. Kieran and his girlfriend, who is a postgraduate violinist at the Royal College of Music, commented on the quality of your singing and the level of technique in abundance ... (and how welcoming and friendly you all were.)

I have to agree, and to think you pulled it off in just 7 weeks is to be praised - what an achievement folks and I'm delighted to hear from some people who were, at first, maybe a little apprehensive and daunted by the Messiah, to come out the other side and experience the

power and thrill of singing those exuberant choruses, and say how much they enjoyed it.

I particularly enjoyed the separate Ladies and Gents pieces in the second half, the Virgin and the Angel Host with Naomi was sublime and the final chorus Hallelujah Amen full of energy.

What an excellent pair of soloists we had, and just outstanding contributions from Melissa and Gavin who put hours of preparation into the most challenging accompaniments.

Thank you to all who spent time organising the concert. As one singer who sat and watched, commented on how good you sounded, and looked - smiles all the way through. You certainly switch on the magic for performance, and thank you for that.

Thank you all, a most enjoyable afternoon.

With my best wishes,

James x

Dear MHC

Congratulations for such a wonderful concert. I loved being able to sit back and hear you sing with the organ ... always a proud moment! The processional worked really well too, adding a sense of anticipation and drama to the start of the concert, it's very exciting! Our soloist's once again blessed us with beautiful voices and repertoire choices and it was an absolute pleasure to play for you all, as always.

Thank you for your support and kindness too.

Love Melissa

... and from a choir member in the audience ...

Some of you will know that I have had trouble with my voice and have not been able to sing in the concerts since last year. I commented at Christmas how excellent I felt the sound was and wish to comment again now after the Spring concert! This time I had done all the rehearsals including on the day, but back came the horribly familiar croak so I decided to watch and listen again.

What a joy it was!! I strongly advise those of you who haven't listened to give it a go because honestly it sounds fantastic. My friends who have been loyal to the choir for many years are increasingly impressed and this time remarked on how the quiet singing and the control has improved. One said she found it very moving. I felt very relaxed and confident in you all, you did all smile with your eyes and made a fabulous sound.

Celia Winter

Summer Concert, 3.00 pm, 25th June 2016 at St John the Baptist Parish Church, Longbridge

Summer Rehearsals (11 plus one Saturday)

April 7, 14, 21, 28

May 5*, 12, 19, 26

June 9, 16, 23

Saturday 11 June: 11.00 am – 1.00 pm, 2.00 – 4.00 pm
at St Luke's Church Centre

*** Please note that the rehearsal on 5th May will be at
St John the Baptist Parish Church, Longbridge**



Flyers are already available - please start 'selling' the concert now so that we have a large audience!

Repertoire that's already on John Fletcher's website:

Gloria, Vivaldi - the version on John's website is taken from the OUP version which is different to our copy in various places - search for Gloria RV589

Credo, St Cecilia Mass - Gounod - search for St Cecilia Mass, and select *3a Credo in unum Deum (up to Fig.D)*. Again this is a slightly different version to our score, but should be fairly helpful.

For the Beauty of the Earth - Rutter

O Fortuna, Carmina Burana - Orff

The Dance, Bavarian Highlands - Elgar

World in Union

Unchained Melody - make sure you select the SATB+piano version

Music Dynamics Limited

You may have heard that Music Dynamics Limited went into administration in February. However, prior to this happening 'ChoraLine' was acquired from Music Dynamics and is now running as an independent company based in Cirencester.

Our choir's discount code is still applicable - MIDLANDS - for a 10% saving on all items on their website www.choraline.com.