

SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2016

In this Newsletter we can look back at the achievements of the past and start looking forward to the future.

We have had two really successful concerts this year that we can be very proud of.

In the spring we had that lovely event in the ARC which must rank as one of our best ever performances (I am paraphrasing comments from the audience when I say that). It was great to have James do a little solo during the performance; made a change for the audience not to be looking at his back all the time. All our soloists did us proud, and the choir raised their game to make an all round first-class performance.



This was followed by an equally successful concert at Longbridge, thank you Margaret Sparkes for setting this up for us. They say things come in 3s, the Welsh Rugger Team were playing, we were being conducted by a Welsh gentleman and the church displayed a leek (sorry, meant leak). Well that was part of the reason for being in Longbridge to help them raise money to repair their roof and it was good that we helped make a contribution to their cause.

Looking forward, I am pleased that we have made the decision to keep James as our Music Director. The move to a Tuesday rehearsal may not have suited everyone and we will lose a few established members as a result. May I first and foremost thank those of you who will be leaving the choir for your past service; I hope when we have a Saturday fun singing day that you will be able to join us - you will be most welcome. For the majority who will be coming along on Tuesdays, we're looking forward to the coming season. I also hope that we will see some new faces who were perhaps unable to previously join us on a Thursday. To those members who are not retired, it would be lovely if you can spread the word amongst your colleagues about what we do and when and how much you personally enjoy it.

Again looking forward, we are hoping that next year we'll be able to spread our wings a little and travel outside Birmingham. We already have a contact keen for us to perform in a Herefordshire church which we are actively looking at to see if it's feasible. If you have any thoughts about what you would like to do, either from a singing point of view or as a social activity, please talk to a committee member. It would be great if you'd like to organise a one-off activity without the long term commitment of being a committee member. That doesn't mean that we don't want new blood on the committee, quite the opposite is true, tell us if you are interested.

I hope you all have a fantastic Summer and hope to see you in September.

Claire.

Summer Concert June 25th 2016 at St John the Baptist Church

You will have seen the email from James congratulating the choir on its performance at Longbridge. The church was almost full and members of the audience commented very positively about the quality of the singing and the variety in the repertoire.

Part of the proceeds of the concert were donated to St John the Baptist Church. The sum amounted to £1207.91 and will be used towards the cost of much needed church roof repairs.



A Summer Concert Message from Melissa

Congratulations for a wonderful Summer Concert! I would like to thank you all for your support whilst my hands were a bit the worse for wear, and for welcoming Sara so warmly for the concert!

I'm enjoying our team so much at the moment, and all the exciting sounds coming from you all! It's always a pleasure to play for you, and to see you go from strength to strength.

Looking forward to seeing you all again to work towards our Christmas concert.

Melissa

Rehearsals

Claire has referred to our rehearsals changing to Tuesdays as a result of James's appointment as MD of the Rhos Male Voice Choir. If you are unable to continue with the choir due to the change, then Susan would appreciate it if you could inform her so that your details can be removed from the database - although if you'd like to continue receiving news, why not become a Friend of the Choir?

Tuesday rehearsals at Newman House for the next season have now been set as:

September 20, 27

October 4, 11, 18, 25

November 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

December 6, 13

Saturday rehearsal at St Luke's Church Centre, 10th December

11.00 am – 1.00 pm, 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm

Concert: 2.15 pm and 7.00 pm, Friday 16th December at Town Hall, Birmingham

All of the above dates and those for 2017 are on the choir's website

Please note that item 31 of the choir's rules state that:

Singers are expected to attend at least 50% of all rehearsals, The trustees reserve the right to exclude a member from participation in a concert should their attendance at rehearsals be deemed to be unacceptable.

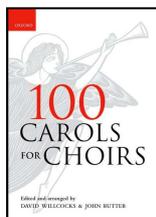
So you will need to attend at least 8 rehearsals (Saturday 10th December counts as 2)

Secretary's Corner

Christmas Registration

In order to ensure that we have music available for you at the first rehearsal, please send your subscription cheque to the Secretary:

Susan Buckingham at
12 Drew Road Stourbridge DY9 0UZ.
Cheques for £35 should be made payable to
Midlands Hospitals Choir and should arrive by
Saturday 27th August latest.



Please note that we will be using *100 Carols for Choirs* this year (the white book). You must have a personal copy to ensure that copyright isn't infringed.

If you don't already have a copy, you'll find these for sale on the internet, eg

- Amazon for £17.95
- <http://www.abebooks.co.uk/> - new or second-hand - shipped from the USA
- Ebay for a smaller amount (though do be careful of any P&P charge).

Some new (£18) and second-hand copies (£10) are available for purchase from the choir. If you'd like one, please email or ring the Secretary to reserve a copy.

MHC Website

(www.midlandshospitalschoir.org.uk)

I'd been led to believe that the drop down menus didn't work on tablets, so have removed these and re-organised the tabs. If you come across any other problems, please do get in touch.

Tickets

Ticket prices this year will be:

£10 for 1st 4 rows of the stalls

£18 all other stalls

£22 for all circle seats

Half price for under 16s, buy 10 get 11th free

Last year we sold 525 tickets across the two performances. Unfortunately, this year we are restricted to an allocation of 200 for each concert - some 24% less, so it'll be first come, first served ...

£18 and £22 tickets will be available at rehearsals from October onwards.

Tickets will be for sale to choir members as follows:



Row	Seats	Price each
Stalls		£18
E	1 - 3	
F	1 - 29	
G	3 - 26	
H	1 - 25	
J	1 - 28	
Circle		£22
B	1 - 8	
C	1 - 30	
D	1 - 6	
Right Side Circle		£22
A	1 - 17	
B	2 - 8	
B	13 - 17	

Note that every ticket sold for us by the Box Office will cost the choir £0.36 plus any postage costs and credit card commission so if we sell all of our allocation, we'll save at least £145!

Programmes

For 2016, the Town Hall will be charging the choir 15% + VAT on all Programmes sold at the concert. We'd therefore like to sell as many as we can before the concert day. I'd like to suggest that when you are taking ticket orders, you also offer Programmes which will be available at rehearsals from the end of October and will be sold at their face value of £3 each or 2 for £5. This will save the choir just over 50p per Programme!

Many thanks!

Susan

07976 157225
SecretaryMHC@gmail.com

A message from the Refreshments Team

A big THANK YOU to everyone who supports us, by having refreshments at rehearsals. Since April we have raised £269.25.

Please continue to support us during the run-up to our Christmas concerts, so that an even larger donation can be made to this very worthwhile charity. A hot drink and biscuit is still only 50p - a bargain price! If it is easier for you, you can you can pay £5 at our first rehearsal to cover the whole term.

Mary, De, Elizabeth and Edna



Other Events

Come and Sing at

All Saints Church
Burcot Lane Bromsgrove B60 1AF

Saturday 1st October 2016

Choruses from Handel's Messiah,
Zadok the Priest and Vivaldi's Gloria

Registration 9.30 am

Rehearsal 10.00

Lunch 1.00 pm

Rehearsal 2.00 pm

3.30 pm Tea

4.00 pm Concert (free to the audience)

£10 including scores which may be retained

Send your cheque
payable to *All Saints Social Committee*,
along with your name, address, telephone
number, email address and voice to
Tony Turpin
89 Stourbridge Road
Bromsgrove B61 0AL

Singalong with the CBSO at

Symphony Hall Birmingham

Sunday 19 March 2017

Mendelssohn's Elijah

Rehearsal 1.30pm

Apply on line at

www.thsh.co.uk/event/singalong-with-the-cbso-mendelssohns-elijah, or buy tickets at their Box Office

Full details will be sent with singer tickets

Scores (available for collection on the day): Novello edition (published 1903).
The Singer ticket (includes score hire with Simon Halsey's rehearsal markings) - on-line price £27.50 (a 50p saving on the Box Office price)