

The Orpheus Voice

YOUNG GUEST MUSICIANS AND SINGERS

Our two concerts during the autumn term were both very successful. A full house at St Mark's Church on 26th November enjoyed not only the choir's singing but the wonderful performance of talented pianist, 16-year-old Tom Field. He delighted us with works by Liszt and Ravel, and then treated us to the stunning 'world premier' of a piece by Horace Hill entitled *Valse Affreuse* - it was one of those 'follow that!' moments. Tom is in the sixth form at the Bishop Stopford School studying Maths, French, Chemistry and Music at A-level. He has been playing the piano since he was five and is currently learning from Milton Keynes based teacher Andrew Eales.



Concert at St Mark's - photograph © Revd Mandy Cuthbertson

"What a great evening the Orpheus Choir gave us at St Mark's; the singing and performance was of a high standard" Revd Mandy Cuthbertson

Our guests at our Christmas Concert at the United Reformed Church were Brass Farthings and the Irchester Community Primary School Choir.

Brass Farthings, a quintet of sixth formers from Wellingborough have been playing together for five years, and it showed! They entertained us with six seasonal pieces, including Leroy Anderson's *Sleigh Ride*, without which no Christmas concert would be complete!

The school choir, conducted by Elaine Bazeley, performed four songs with great confidence and charm.

The committee is currently investigating the possibility of linking with a school choir as part of Making Music's 'Sing Up' twinning project, so we may well hear more from the Irchester school choir in the future.

FRIENDS OF THE ORPHEUS

We were delighted to welcome 11 Friends of the Orpheus to our Christmas Concert, including two former choir members and hosts of the French choir during their visits to us. Not all the Friends have renewed their membership yet, but six new members joined the scheme during the autumn term, so the total membership currently stands at 26. Please encourage family and friends to support us by

becoming Friends. They will receive advanced notice of concerts, discounts on ticket prices, reserved seats, a free souvenir programme, invitations to our social events and this newsletter. It costs just £8 per annum for individuals and £15 for couples to join and registration forms can be obtained from Maureen Williams, maureen@thejetty.eclipse.co.uk.

Dates for your diary

CONCERTS

Saturday 24 March 2012
Mozart's Solemn Vespers
with orchestra
Parish Church, Rothwell

Monday 4 June 2012
Mozart's Solemn Vespers
Église Saint André
Niort, France

Saturday 7 July 2012
Summer concert
All Hallows Church,
Wellingborough

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Sunday 29 April 2012
Singalong with the CBSO:
British Choral Favourites

For details see www.cbsoc.org.uk
We may arrange group travel for singers and audience if enough people are interested

YOUR COMMITTEE

At the AGM on 16th January the choir elected the following members to serve on the committee for the coming year:

Chairman:	Cath Fuller
Secretary:	Barbara Lees
Treasurer:	Diana Smith
Press Officer:	John Weaver
Librarian:	Angela Ferguson
Choir Marshall:	Gordon Titmuss
Soprano rep:	Margaret Foster
Alto rep:	Agnes Penn
Tenor rep:	Gordon Titmuss
Bass rep:	John Weaver

AN INTERVIEW WITH ANDREW HUDSON - ACCOMPANIST



Photograph © John Wheaver

Andrew Hudson became the choir's accompanist in 1998, having initially deputised for and shared the role with Angela Ferguson's mother Hilda Ozier, our accompanist for many years.

The job of accompanist is not an easy task, and a good one is a godsend to conductors. David Bray comments: "Andrew is a fantastic accompanist to work with. He is always so helpful and responsive in rehearsals. He has a great sense of humour and exudes calmness."

"Andrew is a fantastic accompanist to work with."
David Bray

Are you a local boy?

I have lived in Higham Ferrers all my life. When I left home it was only two hundred yards up the road to a bungalow (ready for my retirement you've got to plan ahead!)

Where did you go to school?

I was educated at Rushden Boys School in the last few years of Bert Catlin's headship (he had also taught my father at the same school). Only two of us took music and they didn't think my fellow student would manage O level so we took CSE music. They didn't offer music at A level so I took English, History and Sociology and got two out of the three. I was going to study music at college but started work at a local leather factory (where my grandmother worked) while I

re-took an A level, and stayed there until we closed the business in 2000, finishing up as production director. After a break, I am now back in the leather trade,

Do you come from a musical family?

Both my parents had piano lessons (my mother more successfully than my father) but my grandfather Sydney Hudson was a tenor soloist, locally. He won first prize for tenor solo singing at a festival at the Crystal Palace in 1932 and later sang with the St. Cecilia Singers.

When did you start learning the piano?

I started piano lessons when I was nine, but after five years my teacher thought my style might better suit the organ and I started lessons with the organist at Higham Ferrers Methodist Church where the family attended. When my teacher left the area I took over as organist; a post I held for over twenty years until the closure of the Church in 2004. I did find another organ teacher, but we both found it hard to fit in lessons, so I never managed to take Grade VIII.

Do you play any other instruments?

I played the recorder at school and went as a quartet (two of us from the sixth form and two from the first year) to the Oundle Music Festival. We didn't win anything!

I own a saxophone, inspired to play by a friend. He liked to focus on improvisation..... I wanted the music so



Photograph ©John Wheaver

I could concentrate on learning to play..... the saxophone hasn't been out of its case for eighteen months!

You sing too don't you?

I sing Bass when I get the chance.

Have you accompanied other choirs?

I also accompany the St. Cecilia Singers, Rushden and in the past I have played for the Ouse Valley Singers.

What sort of music do you enjoy playing the most?

That's quite difficult. I like lots of differing styles, but I do enjoy something with a tune. At home I keep changing the music on the piano.... sometimes it's more classical.... sometimes it's songs from the shows..... I know I don't like many of the modern worship songs.

I'm not good at syncopation, because I don't count when I play - (I'm more of a foot-tapper) - anyway that's what the conductor's for isn't it? Playing with orchestras is a nightmare because I can't count bars rest..... I always lose count! I am full of admiration for the percussionist who has to crash the cymbals after a hundred bars rest!

Do you have time for any hobbies other than music?

When not at choir practices I play the organ for Rushden and Wollaston Methodist Churches. I am the treasurer of the Methodist Church in Rushden and also run in a few odd jobs, cleaning and gardening. I enjoy frequent visits from my friend's four-year-old daughter ... made more enjoyable by the fact they are in short doses!

WELCOME

During the autumn term we welcomed to the choir Sheryl Jones, soprano, and altos Elizabeth Dunning, Helen Rafaluk and Linda Wheway.

We also welcomed to the Friends: Betty Chapman, Christiaan De Haes, Terry Faulkner, Roger Smith, Robert Webb and Bob Williams.

ANNUAL DINNER

A great time was had by all at the choir's annual dinner on 9th January, as can be seen from the photos on this page! Sixty-one choir members, Friends and guests enjoyed a superb three-course meal provided by the catering team, led by Gill Timpson, who received a resounding round of applause. This was followed by some fantastic

entertainment from a number of choir members, co-ordinated by 'Mystic Meg' York. The finale, 'A Choral Confession', is reproduced on page 4. Many thanks to the catering team, the entertainers, MC Gordon Titmuss, Diana Smith and Rita Farr who organised the raffle - which raised £226 - and John Wheaver and Keith Fuller who took the photos.



Clockwise from top: enjoying our dinner (photo © John Wheaver); the NHS sketch; Essex boys Nick and Martyn; Martyn again about to go 'under the bridges of Niort' to 'thank 'eaven for German girls'; Margaret and Angela during the 'auditions'; and Meg's Christmas story with a difference (photos © Keith Fuller).



MUSIC QUIZ

1. Which overture written by Felix Mendelssohn was inspired by the echoes of a Scottish sea cave that he visited in 1829 and was named for it?
2. What hymn was written by John Newton in 1748 after he thought he was saved from death at sea?
3. Which enormously influential classical composer spent much of his career as a court musician for the wealthy Hungarian aristocratic Esterházy family?
4. Which Puccini opera features the characters of Ping, Pang and Pong?
5. The Voyager Golden Record is a phonograph record included in the two Voyager spacecraft that contains 27 selected recordings said to portray the diversity of life and culture on earth. Who is the most represented artist?
6. Traditionally believed to be a set of variations from *I know that my redeemer liveth* from Handel's *Messiah*, what is the most common name for a melody used by a set of clock bells to strike the hour?
7. By his own request, which Austrian composer was buried next to Beethoven in 1828?
8. What term describes a person who makes or repairs stringed instruments?
9. What genre of music regarded as the first truly American musical form is identified with the composer Scott Joplin?
10. With which country would you associate the *Bossa Nova*?

Answers on page 4

A CHORAL CONFESSION

Almighty and most merciful Choirmaster,
We have erred and strayed from thy beat like lost sheep,
We have followed too much the intonations
and tempo of our own hearts,
We have offended against thy dynamic markings,
We have left unsung those notes which we ought to have sung,
And we have sung those notes which we ought not to have sung,
And there is no help in us.

But thou, O resplendent Choirmaster,
Have mercy upon us, miserable singers.
Spare thou them, O Sir, which confess their flats,
Restore thou them that are prominent,
According to thy instructions imparted to us at Choir practice.

And grant, O most merciful Choirmaster,
for the congregation's sake,
That we may hereafter make a goodly, rhythmic
and satisfactory sound,
To the glory of God's holy name,

Amen



THE FRENCH CONNECTION

- 1983 Bach's Magnificat at St Barnabas
- 1985 Handel's Messiah in Niort with Hungarian Orchestra
- 1987 De Profundis by Michel De Lalande and Bach's Cantata Gott der Herr ist Sonn und Schild with the English Sinfonia at Weaver's Sports Hall
- 1988 Brahms' and Fauré's Requiems in Niort and Angers with Hungarian Orchestra
- 1990 Vivaldi's Gloria and Part 1 of Bach's Christmas Oratorio at Rothwell Church and Weaver's Sports Hall with Hungarian Orchestra
- 1994 Charpentier's Te Deum and Puccini's Gloria in Niort with Consortium Mauritanum
- 1996 Purcell's Come Ye Sons of Art and Fauré's Cantique de Jean Racine at the Castle with English Sinfonia
- 1997 Brahms' Liebeslieder waltzes in Niort 20th anniversary of Wellingborough's twinning with Niort
- 2000 Mozart's Requiem and Haydn's Little Organ Mass with the Cherwell Orchestra at United Reformed Church
- 2002 Bach's Christmas Oratorio parts 1 and 3 with the Cherwell Orchestra in Niort
- 2005 Mendelssohn's Elijah at the Castle
- 2007 Handel's Messiah in Niort with an Albanian Orchestra
- 2009 Haydn's Creation at St Mary's, Wellingborough

Many thanks to Barbara Lees for putting this list together!

THE GLOBAL SING FOR PEACE

On a scorching hot Saturday at the beginning of October, seven members of the choir joined 150 singers at Northampton High School to rehearse and perform *The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace*.

Organised by the Northampton Bach Choir the event was part of the Global Sing for Peace with choirs from all over the USA, the UK, Canada, Ireland and Italy performing Karl Jenkins' haunting work in September/October to show support for people affected by the 9/11 attacks on New York ten years ago.

The conductor was Lee Dunleavy, the Bach Choir's dynamic young Musical Director, and sponsorship from Waitrose enabled the Choir to secure the services of local soloists and musicians. We recognised the main percussionist as having supported our own performance of the Armed Man in 2010, and the flautist in particular was absolutely amazing!

We all enjoyed the opportunity of performing this wonderful work again and were pleasantly surprised by how much of it we remembered.

facebook

Thanks to Susan Anderson (soprano) we now have a Facebook page for the choir, another way to help potential new choir or audience members find us.

Whether or not you use Facebook yourself, here is the link to the choir page that you can send by ordinary email to anyone who may have friends or acquaintances who would like to come to a concert or come and sing with us. Help spread the word!

<https://www.facebook.com/WellingboroughOrpheusChoir>

Answers to the quiz

1. Fingal's Cave; 2. Amazing Grace; 3. Joseph Haydn; 4. Turandot; 5. Johann Sebastian Bach. Bach's compositions comprise three of the 27 recordings chosen; 6. Westminster Chimes; 7. Franz Schubert (1797-1828); 8. A luthier; 9. Ragtime; 10. Brazil

Don't forget, if you have any news items, articles or suggestions for the newsletter, please email them to the editor, Maureen Williams:



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