

summer newsletter 2001

Wimbledon Choral Society

A Huge Triumph of Local Music Making

There must have been something for everyone in this past season's music programme. It started with a delightful selection of Beethoven's music in the Fairfield Halls, Croydon last November including a superb piano solo performance by Tim Sutton in *The Choral Fantasia*. In the same concert the choir sang the popular *Mass in C*, an absolute romp of a work. Now, just how did the basses get that initial C without any orchestral introduction? Hmmmm?



The November concert was earlier than normally preferred chiefly as a result of there not being any other Saturdays available in Fairfield Halls around that time, which meant we had to put a programme together in only eight or so weeks. As usual, though, you carried it off and once more demonstrated your "professionalism" with a polished performance. The time pressure was the slight down side but the plus side was that it gave us a clear run for preparing for the following Saturday 11th November.

In partnership with Croydon Philharmonic Choir, we formed the Festival Chorus for the Royal British Legion's annual Festival of Remembrance in the Royal Albert Hall in the presence of the Royal Family and broadcast on television. What an honour! What a day! If you thought our performance of Elgar's *The*

Dream of Gerontius was "emotional" the previous season, what about those moments in the Festival when you felt your lower lip start to quiver or your eyes moisten? Well, you can get to witness it a second time because we've been invited back again this year. The full details are not known as yet but are likely to be similar to those of last year when we had to supply around 100 singers.



What would you like your choir's website to tell you and other visitors?

www.wimbledon-choral.org.uk

The March concert held in St. John's Church, Waterloo Road provided a change to our usual format in that this time we sang a selection of short works reflecting some of the best music written for cathedral and church venues. It included Parry's powerful *I Was Glad*, Mozart's magical *Ave Verum Corpus*, Elgar's exciting *Great is the Lord* and Bach's beautiful *Jesus, bleibet meine Freude (Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring)*. We were delighted to welcome the boys of Dulwich College Chapel Choir who joined us in the performance of William Boyce's *Lord, Thou hast been our refuge* and who deservedly received very warm applause for the trio section in the middle of the work.

And then, this happened

CROYDON PHILHARMONIC CHOIR
WIMBLEDON CHORAL SOCIETY
and the NEW QUEEN'S HALL ORCHESTRA

Three strong music makers in their own right combined for an evening described by a local critic as **"a huge triumph of local music making"**.

CARL ORFF
CARMINA BURANA

What started out as a seed of an idea two years earlier turned into a superb performance of *Carmina Burana* and *Hiawatha's Wedding Feast* to a near packed concert hall.

REVELRY

Many choir members commented how much they had enjoyed the evening and what a buzz they had received from it.

COLERIDGE TAYLOR
HIAWATHA'S WEDDING FEAST

It was without doubt a highly successful joint venture and there is certainly the intention to do something similar in the near future. Any thoughts or suggestions on what could be done would be welcome.

ED BY
TENOR ALAN OKE DAVID GIBSON and
BASS RICHARD MORRIS MICHAEL ASHCROFT
We finished off the season with the choir "In Concert" at the Cannizaro Park Festival, off Wimbledon Common. The musical content certainly went down well with the audience present (albeit rather small) and the festival promoters were very pleased with what we did.

Once again, I would like to thank you all for your continued support and the tremendous effort that you put in to everything that we do to make this one of the best amateur choirs in the country.

boss@wimbledon-choral.org.uk

Random Rambling Thoughts

New Season

The first rehearsal of the new season is on Monday 3rd September, starting at 7.30pm, in the Wimbledon Community Centre, St. Georges Road. Please do make sure that you arrive in plenty of time so that we can start promptly and maintain this practice throughout the season. The AGM is scheduled for Monday 24th September at 7.30pm.

The committee has agreed that the subscription rates for the new season will be as shown below.

Type	Rate
Standard	£90.00
Aged 25 or Under	£50.00
Registered Unemployed	£50.00
Full-time students	---

The rates have gone up slightly in line with expected costs for the coming season and to ensure that our savings cushion does not get too depleted. Although last season's accounts show a near break-even state we still have to be very careful.

New Role

Sarah Hendry has agreed to be our Subscription Secretary and it is to her that you should pay your subscriptions by Monday 29th October 2001. It will be Sarah who will chase you if you do not. Far too many of you need to be reminded time and time again until you pay up finally.

New Constitution

After a lot of work on the part of Richard Simon we have reached agreement between the Charity Commission and WCS on the content of the new proposed and upgraded constitution for the Society. This has come about from a need to streamline the choir's decision making. A copy of the new constitution and associated rules is enclosed. Please read it through carefully as you will be asked to vote on its acceptance and implementation at the AGM.

Proms in the Garden

Saturday 15 Sept 2001
Gates open
6pm for 7.30pm

35 The Warren
Carshalton Beeches
Surrey

Bring a picnic!
Bring some friends!
Bring your voice!
See June for tickets



New Ideas

We've often thought and talked about it but never done anything about it yet. As an alternative to doing the same standard three concerts a year, what if we were to mix the successful concept of a joint venture with performing outside of the London area? How would you fancy the idea of making a long weekend (Friday to Sunday, maybe) and going to somewhere like York for the last concert of the season? If that proves workable then perhaps the idea could be extended to going abroad to somewhere like Belgium or France. Please tell your voice representative what you think of this.

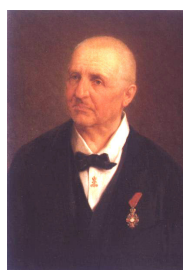
New Features

The choir's website continues to grow with new features and information. Many households now have access to the internet so next time you are online take a look at www.wimbledon-choral.org.uk. Take special note of the "members" page which contains details of events in which WCS members can take part, some of which are organised by other choirs or promoters. It also contains some past newsletters and a recent addition is a set of MIDI sound files of Brahms's *A German Requiem* (which we are performing next Spring) to help you learn the work should you not already know it. This idea came from Carolyn Victor-Smith (Soprano).

What would be useful, though, is feedback from you on what you think of the website and, of more importance, what else you think the website could and should contain or do. Again please tell your voice reps what you think.

New Programme

The website contains all the details of the music programme for the forthcoming season but for those of you who are not "plugged in" here are some visual clues!!!



Clockwise from the left : Rossini, Parry, Bruckner, Brahms.

Looking forward to seeing you all again on Monday 3rd September.