

Market Harborough Choral Society

Registered Charity No 506713



Newsletter - April 2015



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A round up of news, events, concert plans and a calendar of future rehearsal and concert dates for your diary.

Summer Concert Rehearsals start April 14th!

Our next terms rehearsals start on Tuesday **April 14th** - not 21st as shown on a previous planner. You get another rehearsal for your subscription! We will be beginning work on our Summer Concert 2015. Just to give you a flavour of the kind of music we will be doing, the provisional list for rehearsal is follows – not in any particular order. Anselm and Richard however are still considering the final list so this could change but just to let you know – as people have been asking!

Title	Composer
Cherokee Morning Song?	Trad
Choral Medley from West Side Story (America, I Feel Pretty, Maria, One Hand, One Heart , Tonight)	Bernstein & Sondheim
Tis a Gift to be Simple (Shaker Song)	Trad arr Chilcott
Down in the River to Pray	Trad
Swing Low or other spiritual	Trad
Lets do it	Porter
Summertime	Gershwin
I got Rhythm	Gershwin
Over the Rainbow	Arlen
Shenandoah	Trad
Frog went a courtin.	Trad
Bridge over troubled water	Simon/Garfunkel
Love me tender	Presley
God only knows, Barber Shop arrangement ?	Beach Boys
California Dreaming	Mamas and Papas
What a wonderful world	Thiell and Weiss
Seal Lullaby	Whitacre
Sure on this shining night	Lauridson
New York New York	Sinatra
Buffalo Gals	Trad arr Chilcott
Every time I feel the spirit	Trad arr Chilcott

Songbooks we are using

[In the mood](#)

Most of this collection are from the "Great American Song Book" – we can use many of these

[Five American Folksongs](#)

This collection has Yankee Doodle, Shenandoah, Shortnin' Bread - Pick A Bale O' Cotton, The Streets Of Laredo, Frog Went A-Courtin'-

[Encores for Choirs 2](#)

This has USA songs Buffalo Gals, Every time I feel the Spirit and Parting Friends

Important Note : As ever with Summer Concerts, Anselm and Richard want small groups to assemble to do individual items . We prefer this over soloists – as more people get a chance to get involved. We would like groups to start rehearsing early so that auditions can be held at the end of May to give plenty of time to know where we stand with the programme. If you would like to organise or take part in a small group or solo item , please sign up on the sheet on the table at the back of the Hall and we will put you together!

Provisional poster here!



Spring Concert - Music from the Cathedrals - March 28th

Thank you for a great concert. Many people have come up to me and told me how thrilling it was to sing and hear the music we did – and a perfect start to the Easter season. I know I speak for many of you (whether you subscribe to a faith or not) when I say that the music was hugely enjoyable to sing – and I felt early on in rehearsals that the choir was responding with great enthusiasm.

I hope it is the type of concert we can do again – but of course with different selection of music – and there is much more we could do from that genre – of equal attraction for singers and audience. So watch this space. Thanks to Ivan for organ accompaniment which made it all sound so right and to Anselm and Richard for guiding us through rehearsals.

Social Night – Meal at Wildwood March 31st

Thanks very much to Helen Hurd for arranging such a nice evening meal for us at Wildwood on Tuesday March 31st. Here is the Choral Group posing for the waiter who kindly took the photo!



Coffee Morning – March 14th

Thanks very much to Grace Jones who organised the Coffee Morning again and all the team who helped on the day – and those who came and supported it. A great result making £430 for the Society – earmarked to spend on music. Well done all! Put the date of the next one in your diary - Sat November 21st. The picture below shows the event in full swing!



CD Recording

Just to let you know – we have made a funding bid to the Harborough and Bowdens Charity to help with the costs of the production of CDs. We expect to hear the result in a couple of weeks and then will be making plans to produce the CD. We have heard copies of the tracks which Jules has supplied to us . It all sounds wonderful even before he completes the editing. What happens now is selection of tracks, final production on the music files, deciding what images and text to go on the CD sleeve and getting the CD printed. It is of course a Christmas CD (and with Richards piece for Remembrance) so perfect for gifts in the Autumn.

Does anyone know of a suitable outlet in the town centre who might be prepared to stock copies?

New Treasurer needed!

Jenny Blewitt will be giving up the position of Treasurer at the October Annual Meeting. She wants to come back and sing with us soon – but wants to do it with no strings attached! Jenny has done a fantastic job over the last seven or so years for the Society and we have benefited from her “business brain” so I am sure you will join me in due course in thanking her sincerely. The treasurer collects all our money and pays all our bills – and is a key member of our committee, giving us advice on our financial health Do you feel you can do this important job for the Society?. Do you love spreadsheets?!! If you can answer yes to both questions – I would be pleased to hear from you.

New Patrons Secretary needed!

Jill Mann has also indicated she would like to give up the position of Patrons Secretary at the October Annual Meeting. Jill has supported us by recruiting Patrons, liaising over annual financial support and “look after” them on Concert nights. Patrons act as individual sponsors of the Society and it is important that someone continues this role. Again – please think about whether you could take over as Patrons Secretary . Thank you Jill for all the support you have given in this role.

Next Season 2015/16

The 2015/16 Concert season is starting to shape up with our concert for Autumn 2015 being called provisionally “The French Connection” featuring [Durufle’s Requiem](#) coupled with other shorter items by French composers. The Christmas Concert this year will be followed by the Spring 2016 concert (amazingly enough!) which will feature [Dvorak’s Mass in D Major](#) paired with other items which our

Musical Directors are finalising . We are provisionally calling this concert – “Music of Melody and Harmony” - focussing on European choral music from the latter part of the 19th Century. Our Summer 2016 concert is likely to be themed around Animals (we are still drawing from the pool of ideas the choir came up with a couple of years back!) – we are currently naming it something like “Carnival of the Animals” or “A Musical Menagerie”. If you can come up with a better title let us know . I’m looking forward to next season already!

Robert Smyth Academy - Performance Venue

Good news is that Robert Smyth have begun a fund raising campaign to re model the Main Hall and turn it in a modern performance venue. Long overdue I hear you say!

Refurbishment of the hall has already begun, with new windows and doors already installed and work on the exterior is nearing completion. Phase 2 is the installation of a new floor, retractable theatre style tiered seating, new staging and a new ceiling that can accommodate theatrical lighting.

Phase 3 is an extension to the front of the hall, which will be a foyer area with a bar, reception and toilets and a double drama classroom alongside. This will mean that visitors to the hall will no longer have to come through the school and catering facilities will be available.

I went to a launch event a couple of weeks ago – and don’t worry – there will still be room for a choir and orchestra – amid the retractable tiered seating. It will only start half way up the hall.

The proposals look really good and I hope they will ensure that it works acoustically as a classical music venue – as well as for concerts with sound systems.

See the video shot by Andrew Carpenter at the launch below

<http://www.harboroughmail.co.uk/news/mail-news/video-school-s-750k-appeal-to-revamp-hall-1-6657834>

We have offered to do a concert to help fund raise and I have pencilled this in for May 2016. I hope to be able to arrange a joint concert with Harborough Band.

Upcoming Events, Come and Sing Days etc etc

There is lots happening choral wise ! Please see the social page on the website for listings of things to do!
<http://www.harboroughchoral.co.uk/social.htm>

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