



SoundBites – January 2018

A newsletter for members of Axminster & District Choral Society

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Date	Event	Programme
09-Jan-18	Spring term begins	Brahms <i>Requiem</i>
09-Jan-18	Members' survey distributed	
16-Jan-18	Return members' survey by	
09-Feb-18	Music workshop for committee and voice reps	
20-Feb-18	Committee meeting	
27-Mar-18	Spring term ends	
17-Apr-18	Summer term begins	
28-Apr-18	Spring concert	Brahms <i>Requiem</i> - 2 pianos, Peter conducting + something else for 2 pianos
15-May-18	Committee meeting	
09-Jun-18	Summer concert/workshop	To be decided
12-Jun-18	Summer term ends	Bring and share
19-Jun-18	Committee meeting	
04-Sep-18	Autumn term begins	
18-Sept-18	Committee meeting	
16-Oct-18	AGM	Bring and Share
10-Nov-18	November concert	Vaughan Williams <i>Dona Nobis Pacem</i> & 6 songs in time of war
15-Dec-18	Christmas Concert	Carol Concert
15-Dec-18	Autumn Term Ends	

Chairman's Column

Best wishes for the New Year from all on the committee. I look forward to seeing you at the first rehearsal of the term on Tuesday 9th January at 7.30pm.

May I put on record the thanks that are due to all those who helped make the two recent events – the Haydn Mozart Concert and the Christmas Come & Sing event – such successes.

- Sue Warren says - *I would like to thank all the good ladies of the choir (and Mike!) for all the catering and help volunteered so willingly during the 2017 concert season. I could not have managed it without you!*

- Sheena says - *I would like to express my thanks to all those who kindly contributed cakes and mince pies for the visitors and audience at the Come and Sing Messiah on 16th Dec. Particular thanks to Gill who organised the tea making for both breaks in the afternoon, and to all those who helped at both breaks putting out cakes and mince pies, and serving the Audience with refreshments after the performance.*
- And I would like to thank the heavy brigade for erecting and clearing the staging with such rhythm (allegro moderato) and harmony, under the baton of our director Ray.

Mike describes the financial outcomes of each event. The feedback from many of the audiences was a pleasure to receive. The committee will be looking at how to attract more outsiders to the Come & Sing events. Your comments will be gratefully received.

Heather is organising a fund-raising event. She says: *“I am hoping to organise an Antiques evening in the Spring, date to be arranged with committee. This involves an expert giving a small talk, a competition, a valuation of items brought by members and refreshments, or meal cooked by our special caterer Liz Beale of Food With Thought.”*

Shirley McBride, our new school liaison person, is starting to link up with our local schools:-

** E mails were sent in September to Axe Vale Academy outlining the proposal of our society sponsoring pupils with a keen aptitude in music for a series of singing lessons. In exchange, there would be an expectation for the pupils to attend rehearsals and join us for a concert. The link Governor for music has supported this proposal and spoken directly with the headteacher in an attempt to strengthen community links.*

** Fliers with the details of the Messiah Workshop were delivered to our local secondary phase schools in November with an invitation for interested pupils to join us for the day. Although no response materialised on this occasion (possibly because of so many other musical commitments at this time of year) further invitations will be given as opportunities arise.*

** An invitation to attend Colyton Grammar School concert was accepted and my husband and I enjoyed the quality of performance given. Initial introductions were made with the Head of Music and gratitude was shown for our support.*

Please do speak to Shirley if you are connected to a particular school and can help strengthen the link.

The Autumn Concerts – financial outcome

The Autumn concert – Michael Haydn and Mozart – was hailed as a performance success, done with panache to a good-sized audience. But, like almost all our performances, it ran at a loss. The total cost of putting on the concert was about £5,000, whilst the income was about £3,000. This was not a surprise (at least, not to the Treasurer) and was built into the budget for the year. But it emphasises a few points:

- a. Most of our concert income comes from ticket sales - £2,000 of the £3,000 income was ticket sales, and represents about 150 tickets sold. There is room for 200 people in the Minster – so there is scope to increase numbers.
- b. Orchestras cost a lot. Peter and the committee need to continue to be pragmatic about the size of any orchestra which accompanies our performances.
- c. We have other sources of income which help offset the costs of a concert. These include the 100 club, the weekly raffle, selling advertising in the programme and the support of the Friends and Patrons.

The Come-and-Sing (Messiah) made a modest surplus (I am still awaiting a number of bills, so the figure is not yet clear)

Mike King

From the Librarian

ADCS member survey

Do you have any suggestions for works the Choral Society might perform, or any other comments you would like the committee to consider? If so, the committee would like to hear them.

We will be distributing survey forms at the rehearsal on January 9th, and we need completed forms to be returned at the following week's rehearsal on January 16th. The results will then be considered at meetings in February. If you are unable to come to the rehearsal on 9th please let me know by emailing ejtwining@gmail.com or phoning me on 01404 43805 and I will get a survey form to you.

You can suggest up to five musical works for consideration. Nothing is excluded – they can be short or long, well known or obscure, straightforward or challenging, modern or medieval. Just give the composer's name and the full title for each one. So please start thinking.

Elizabeth Twining

ADCS SOCIAL MEDIA UPDATE

Well six months after being asked to set up a Facebook page and run the Twitter account, it is going well. We now have 31 followers on Facebook and 136 on Twitter.

To what purpose I hear you asking? It is part of the PR/marketing activity and helps to make a wider audience aware of us and our events. There are Twitter followers from all over the world, to very close to Axminster – other choirs, organisations that can help to promote us over the airwaves, possible soloists, composers...the list goes on. Here are the links again for you, Twitter feeds are also visible on our website: <http://www.axminsterchoral.co.uk/>

Happy New Year!



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