



AXMINSTER & DISTRICT CHORAL SOCIETY



SoundBites – November 2019

A newsletter for members of Axminster & District Choral Society

Editor Juliet Henham

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Date	Event	Programme
14-Dec-2019	Christmas Concert	West Gallery Christmas
07-Jan-2020	Spring Term Begins	
04-Apr-2020	Spring Concert	CPE Bach – St Matthew Passion
04-Apr-2020	Spring Term Ends	
21-Apr-2020	Summer Term Begins	
13-Jun-2020	Summer Concert	Opera Choruses plus Summer Songs
16-Jun-2020	Summer Term Ends	Bring and Share
08-Sep-2020	Autumn Term Begins	
13-Oct-2020	AGM	
14-Nov-2020	November Concert	Beethoven Mass in C & Bruckner Requiem in D
19-Dec-2020	Christmas Concert	Vivaldi Gloria & Christmas Hits
05-Jan-2021	Spring Term Begins	
27-Mar-2021	Spring Concert	Handel - Messiah
27-Mar-2021	Spring Term Ends	

Chairman's Column

After a successful concert with an enlarged choir and a good-sized audience it is worth thinking about ways of improving the staging, ticketing, seating and refreshment arrangements. We anticipate the St Matthew Passion concert next April will be popular, both for the choir and the audience. Here are some of our ideas.

The staging we used last week maximises possible choir places which provide a clear view of the conductor. We will add an additional row of seats in the front if more places are required which will mean stretching the orchestra – wider but thinner. We will be improving the railing so that there is no frightening void in front or to the side. We do not want to lose an alto!

Parish room chairs will be used in the south side isle to reduce the need to place some of our audience behind some of the choir. We will remove the sofas in the south-west corner which will allow the drinks table to be put there which will increase seating places.

We will prevent our families and friends from waiting in the cold and rain by trying to engineer two queues on entering the church, one for ticket purchase and the other for those with tickets. We would appreciate a volunteer who would welcome the audience outside the North door and direct them to the appropriate queue. Please let Rozanne or me know if you can press gang such a volunteer! Choir members will be asked to enter by the kitchen.

To reduce queuing for the toilet we will re-introduce the rule that the audience will use the parish room toilet so freeing the church one for the choir, orchestra and soloists.

The committee would really value your input so please send me your ideas.

Cam Bowie

CPE Bach – Saint Matthew Passion

Every year Peter and I meet with the Choir's Committee to discuss the repertoire suggestions that have been put forward by the choir. One of these has been to perform Bach's St. Matthew Passion.

This work is very long and demands a double choir and orchestra which puts it outside our scope musically but also in terms of the performing space we have in the Minster.

But we are to perform it in April! At least, it is a St. Matthew Passion by Bach.

Sebastian Bach's second son, Carl Philipp Emanuel became director of music to all five of the Hamburg Churches when his godfather Telemann died in 1767. Part of the job description was to compose a setting of the Passion every year. At the time, it was perfectly in order for composers to borrow and re-arrange the music of

others and CPE Bach only had a group of eight singers at his disposal. For his 1789 Passion setting, and not for the first time, he happily drew on his father's music for many of the 'crowd' choruses arranging them for 4-part choir. In addition several of his father's wonderful chorale harmonisations are included. There are borrowings too for the two short duets (False Witnesses, High Priests). In fact, there is more of J.S.Bach in this work than there is of his son!

As far as we know, this piece has never been performed in the U.K. It had some performances in the USA from a draft printed edition. We are very lucky in having been given access to the performing parts based on the critical edition 'Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach: The Complete Works made available by the publisher, the Packard Humanities Institute.

C.P.E. Bach never performed this work as he died in December 1788, three months before the established pattern of five successive Sunday performances which were given in different churches from the second to the sixth Sunday in Lent. Coincidentally, Easter Day 1789 was April 12th. just as it is in 2020.

By 1789, what we call 'oratorio Passions' (where the story is told through Recitatives recounting the biblical events of Christ's Passion) were quite out of favour. After Bach's death, the church authorities were quick to advocate a change to the now popular 'Passion oratorio'. These avoided what was considered poor taste having the words of 'persons of veneration especially our Saviour being delivered as if by actors'. So this work is a milestone representing the end of a long tradition stretching back for centuries.

As this work lasts a little over an hour, we shall also be including another transcription by CPE Bach of one of his father's pieces. This is a chorus from the Magnificat; Sicut locutus est. It is given another text : Holy is God, the Lord of Sabaoth, all lands are full of his praise.

Please tell all your friends who sing in other local choirs to come and hear this remarkable work. We hope to advertise the performance widely to attract a great deal of interest from the world of music.

Peter Lea-Cox

From the Editor

Please see overleaf a full list of contact details for the committee members and other choir personnel:

Music Director		Peter Parshall	parshallp@gmail.com	07780 027930
Accompanist		Peter Lea-Cox	gillyandpeter@gmail.com	
Associate Dir. Of Music		Judy Martin	judydom@gmail.com	
Chairman	C	Cam Bowie	cam.bowie1@gmail.com	01297 34985
Vice Chairman	C	Heather Lee	pilsdonkennels@aol.com	01460 220914
Treasurer	C	Mike King	mike-honiton@hotmail.com	01404 43805
Secretary	C	Sheena Carr	s.carr31@hotmail.com	01297 34129
Librarian	C	Elizabeth Twining	ejtwining@gmail.com	01404 43805
Subscriptions, patrons, sponsors, ticket sales, concert front of house	C	Rozanne Bulmer	rvbulmer@btinternet.com	01404 881838
Soundbites	C	Juliet Henham	juliethenham@gmail.com	07890 967858
Hospitality	C	Sue Warren	warrensue7@hotmail.com	01297 631952
House management & website	C	Ray Tomes	raytomes@talktalk.net	
Kathryn Whitaker	C		bookings@wykefarmdevon.co.uk	07803 519285
Fanny Balcombe	C		fbalcombe@btinternet.com	
				01297 33563
Friends and Social Media		Celia Dunsford	celia.dunsford@btopenworld.com	07985 268656
House management				
Deputy		Suddhacitta	suddhacita@hotmail.co.uk	
Drinks		Graham Jones	graham.jones247@gmail.com	01297 35725
School Liaison		Shirley McBride	christopher.mcbride1@btinternet.com	
Voice Rep - Soprano		Shirley McBride	christopher.mcbride1@btinternet.com	
Voice Rep - Alto		Christine Ashford	christinehashford@gmail.com	
Voice Rep - Tenor		Chris Jowett	candsjowett@hotmail.com	
Voice Rep - Bass		Graham Cumming	gd_cumming@hotmail.co.uk	
E-mail Listing		Christine Ashford	christinehashford@gmail.com	01460 261241

Juliet Henham



We wish you a merry
Christmas and a happy
New Year