

Newsletter Summer 2023

Dates for your diary

2023

14 Sep	First rehearsal
19 Oct	AGM
26 Oct	Half term
9 Dec	Concert

2024

11 Jan	First rehearsal
15 Feb	Half term
4 & 11 Apr	Easter holiday
27 Apr	Choral Workshop
	Verdi: Requiem
18 May	Concert

Rehearsals

Thursdays 7.15 to 9pm. Scores and refreshments available from 6.45 at the first two rehearsals in Sep and Jan.

Music for Autumn session

Vivaldi: Gloria (Ricordi, ed. Casella)
Rachmaninov: Bogoroditse devo
James MacMillan: O radiant dawn

Music for Spring session

Mozart: Requiem

Voice representatives

SOP 1 Pauline Rossi
SOP 2 Sheila Handover
ALTO Annie Dayment
TENOR Roger Baron
BASS Jeff Grist

From the Chairman

Well. What an exciting year it has been, with first, Elgar's *From the Bavarian Highlands* and most recently, Handel's *Messiah*. I know that I can speak for all of us in saying that the Christmas concert was very enjoyable and the May *Messiah* was a triumph. We were very fortunate to have the time needed to learn the *Messiah* thoroughly. Then, our glorious soloists and lovely orchestra added an extra dimension that we could only dream of as we rehearsed week by week. We have so much to thank Tim for, as it was his inspiration that carried us through the year to such success, ably assisted by Anna's excellent accompaniment. Thank you both.

There is a tremendous amount going on in the background in order to enable us to produce such polished concerts and we can all too easily take the Trustees and their helpers for granted. We owe so much to all those who have worked exceedingly hard throughout the season and for our concerts. So a big thank you to everyone who has helped Shaldon Singers to be so successful.

Peter Cahill, who has been our stage manager for 9 years, wishes to retire for a well-earned rest at the end of this year (May 2024). His has been a vital job both for rehearsals and, of course, for concerts and we owe him a great debt of gratitude. So now we need someone to take on this role. Please let me know if you could volunteer to deputise for him during this year with a view to taking over his duties in due course.

We have a very full programme to look forward to in the coming year, with Vivaldi's *Gloria* at Christmas, and the Mozart *Requiem* in May. Also, we are holding our very own choral workshop in April, singing Verdi's *Requiem*.

It has been lovely to see so many Singers this year, both returners and those new to the choir. We still have space for more members, so do see if you can encourage someone else to join us. The two 'taster' sessions at the beginning of term with refreshments beforehand (thank you, Viv) always help when trying to recruit. Please let Anne Gore or me know of anyone considering taking the plunge.

I do hope to see you all refreshed and raring to sing in September.

*Take care,
Ann*

Annual subscription: £75

Please pay by bank transfer to:

Shaldon Singers

Acc. No.: 01985478

Sort Code: 30-96-06

**with your name as
reference**

Deadline: 28 September 2023

Alternatively, Mary can collect cheques, or cash, at rehearsals.

Please let us know if you will **not** be returning in September, or if you are going to miss the first few weeks. Please arrange for your subs to be paid on time.

Mary Mears (treasurer)

01626 351895

Ann Pardoe (chairman)

01626 873709

Anne Gore (membership)

01626 866815

shaldonsingers@gmail.com

Retiring collections

The retiring collection at our December concert raised **£530** for the Helen Foundation. Roger and Annie Kirk write:

In 2022, The Helen Foundation benefited over 2,000 young people across Teignbridge, through school-based arts workshops, individual bursaries and special arts projects. This donation will help the Foundation to maintain its encouragement of young people to experience the excitement and challenges of the arts.

And in May **£521** was raised for Devon Air Ambulance:

This very generous donation will ensure our crew can continue to respond to the people of Devon in their time of need. In 2022 we were tasked to 1,828 missions. In May alone the helicopters were dispatched 124 times and the critical care cars 65 times. Without your generosity we would not have been able to provide this help to people in time-critical emergencies.

From the Musical Director

Well, what a year that was! I cannot believe how quickly the weeks fly by at our Thursday night rehearsals. I feel that the choir has grown in confidence and vocal agility and it has been a real pleasure being on that musical journey with you. I hope you get as big a buzz out of Thursday nights at St Peter's as I do.

Our rehearsals would not be the same without the support of Anna, our wonderful accompanist whose eye for detail and dedication to ensuring that all the right notes are sung in the right order is second to none. Thank you, Anna – we could not do it without you.

The first half of the Christmas concert was filled with the choral suite *From the Bavarian Highlands* by Elgar, a real Edwardian classic. Although some of the lyrics were a little on the syrupy side, we sang the more reflective movements with great feeling and the final chorus was an energetic gallop to the end.

The concert was enhanced by the superlative accompaniment of Andrew Millington on piano and organ, and he treated us to two solos that certainly showed off the wide range of stops on the St Peter's organ.

The choir enjoyed the challenge of two contemporary works by Eric Whitacre and Ola Gjeilo, both of which were well received alongside the more traditional seasonal offerings in the second half of the concert. I think that we were all relieved not to have to wear extra layers and blankets this year with the church heating up and running!

January saw us commence rehearsals for *Messiah*. Having listened to various interpretations of this choral classic I did have an idea of what the Shaldon *Messiah* should sound like, and I think it is fair to say that what you produced for the concert in May was the musical highlight of my year. Phrasing, articulation, dynamics and diction were all rehearsed and taken on board.

Our soloists for the concert were all old friends until sadly James had to drop out due to getting a contract with Royal Opera (fair enough!). Tim Mirfin proved to be an exceptional bass soloist who wowed us with his power and resonance.

The performance was supported by Anna and the wonderful Shaldon Sinfonietta, whose orchestral playing was superb and certainly inspired the choir to even greater things on the day.

The combination of choir, orchestra and soloists came together in a truly magical performance and one that we will all remember for years to come.

Thank you all for your commitment, energy, enthusiasm and good humour at rehearsals. I am looking forward to the new season already!

Best wishes, Tim