



Shaldon Singers
Registered Charity Number 1164387

Summer Newsletter 2018

Dates for your diary

2018

- 13 Sep First rehearsal
- 18 Oct AGM (7pm)
- 25 Oct Half term
- Sat 8 Dec Christmas Concert

2019

- 10 Jan First rehearsal
- 21 Feb Half term
- 11 & 18 Apr Easter holiday
- Sat 11 May 40th Anniversary Concert
- 20-23 June Shaldon Festival

Rehearsals start at 7.15. At the first two rehearsals in September and January, tea/coffee and scores are available from 6.45.

Music for Christmas concert

To include:

- Haydn : Little Organ Mass
- Goodall : The Lord is my Shepherd
- Parry : Blest Pair of Sirens

Music for 40th anniversary concert

- Gounod : St Cecilia Mass

Voice representatives

SOP 1 Pauline Rossi

SOP 2 Ro Rickett

ALTO Annie Dayment

TENOR Roger Baron

BASS Len Eggleston

Subscriptions

Individual: £60 per annum (£30 for half-year). You can pay by cheque or cash at a rehearsal or via bank transfer to Shaldon Singers:

Ac. No.: 01985478

Sort Code 30-96-06

With your name as reference

Deadline 27 September 2018

Paying for the full year is a great help to Mary Mears but you may choose to defer a half year instalment to January, in which case it must be paid by 18 Jan 2019.

Returning in September? We have a waiting list, so please let Ann know (01626 873709) if you are not returning, or if you cannot attend for the first few weeks; in which case, please arrange for your subscription to be paid on time.

Chairman's report

Dear Singers,

What a great year we have had! Bob's two-year tenure as our Musical Director has come to an end all too swiftly with a spirited performance of Rutter's Gloria at Christmas (not to mention Jingle Bells) and a lovely concert of Handel's Messiah in May. I know that we will all greatly miss Bob and we wish him well in his retirement.

I am delighted to say that I have had advance news from Mary Mears, our treasurer, that we have ended the year in profit thanks in no small measure to a full audience for Messiah. It has also been a good year for our beneficiaries. Their collections raised £650 for Alice Croft and £656 for Bloodwise.

On to the future, Shirley has been outlining her ideas to the committee and we are looking forward to getting to know her and her husband, Garry, who will be joining the tenors. I won't steal her thunder by saying more about the music, but we do hope that she enjoys settling into the area with its wealth of opportunities.

The committee has been discussing the problem of moving the staging for concerts and, also, considering the new GDPR requirements. I will say more at the AGM, but meanwhile we do want to check that we have the correct contact information for you all, so there will be an envelope waiting for renewing members to collect in September. This will contain print-outs of your data, so that you can check that all is as it should be. The only significant

change to what we do is that we need to ask for permission to include your name in our programmes; you will have to chance to agree to it or not, as you wish.

With this newsletter is the usual information about term dates and paying your subs. We are also attaching the membership rules of the Choir. If, by any chance, you decide not to come back, please let me know as soon as possible by emailing shaldonsingers@gmail.com or ringing me on 01626 873709, so that I can contact someone on our waiting list.

As I write this, we are enjoying a spell of glorious summer weather, which probably means it will be raining by the time you read the Newsletter. I hope that you are having a relaxing summer and that you will return in September ready to enjoy some new musical challenges.

Looking forward to an exciting 40th Anniversary year,

Ann

Message from Bob

What an amazing performance of Handel's *Messiah* you gave on Saturday. I can't think of any aspect of the evening that could have gone better! The soloists were brilliant, the orchestra was superb and the choir was totally focused and gave their all, heart and soul, throughout the evening. Many people complimented the Choir on the high standard of the choral singing – and that is down to each and every one of you. You have worked hard during the rehearsals and have a burning desire to achieve the highest possible level of performance. So, a huge 'Thank you' to you all, for the joy that you have given me; I have loved conducting you! As I said on Saturday, this performance will always remain with me, and remind of the very special time that I was privileged to spend with you.

This has been a very successful season altogether. A superb Christmas Concert featuring an excellent Brass Ensemble in Rutter's *Gloria*, received a standing ovation from the audience! Also included was Pergolesi's *Magnificat*, Bruckner's *Ave Maria* and many carol favourites ... all of which were totally eclipsed, it seems, by our rendition of *Jingle Bells* and its encore with the audience joining in!!

So, three seasons together and many, many highlights for me and I hope for you too. Even now I can remember your amazing unaccompanied performance of *Jesus Christ the Apple Tree*, Mozart's *Laudate Dominum*, Stanford's uplifting *Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis*, Haydn's *Creation* and Dvorak's *Stabat Mater*... and too many others to mention!

None of this would have been possible without our incredibly hard-working committee under the leadership of Ann. I cannot overstate how hard they work and how many hours they put in to ensure that all runs smoothly. I am, personally, so grateful to them for one hundred per cent support.

Thank you all for your very generous gifts on Saturday. The engraved decanter and glasses are absolutely stunning, and complemented by an amazing bottle of malt whisky!! The glass ornament, engraved 'Jingle Bells', has already found a prominent place at home and will always bring a smile to my face and remind me of the lovely smiles that you were able to produce 'on demand' in the happy elements of *Messiah*.

Anthea and I will miss you immensely. We will not lose touch totally as we will be at your next concert.

We wish you many more joyful seasons of fabulous music.

Love to you all

Bob

Message from Shirley

I am very pleased to be able to send you greetings ahead of next season via this summer newsletter. First I must say how much I enjoyed your performance of the 'Messiah'. It was a real treat to sit amongst the audience and to experience their delight and sincere appreciation of the concert. Many congratulations to Bob, Cor, all singers, instrumentalists and soloists – not forgetting your committee and all those who worked behind the scenes to make the event such a success. The Handel was a major undertaking and it was lovely to hear the progress made from my audition evening with you in February to a full scale rendition of the work in May. I am really looking forward to joining you in September for what is a milestone year - the 40th anniversary of Shaldon Singers. Over the last few months I have been talking and meeting with Ann, committee members and Cor to discuss the shape of the coming season and the repertoire we will perform to make the two anniversary concerts as special as possible. Plans for music hire, instrumentalists, soloists, concert logistics etc. are now well underway so we are ready for the off in September.

Our Christmas concert on 8 December will take the usual format of broad repertoire items in the first half and seasonal music in the second. In the first half we will sing words and music spanning three and a half centuries, with substantial pieces by Joseph Haydn and Hubert Parry and also two shorter items by British composer Howard Goodall, well known for both his choral music and tv appearances. We will have either piano or organ accompaniment depending on the piece. In the second half, along with an invited soloist, we will sing well known carols with a few new ones added in, so as to expand our Christmas repertoire. Our major work in the second half of our May 2019 concert, with soloists and orchestra, will be Charles Gounod's Mass in honour of Saint Cecilia, the patron saint of music - fitting for a choir celebrating 40 years of its own music making. This work is a stirring, reflective, dramatic composition with beautiful melodic lines, the most famous section being the Sanctus, heard regularly on classical music programmes on the radio. It is a great, exuberant sing! I hope you will find this music enjoyable and varied, rewarding to learn and sing, and exciting to perform.

My husband Garry and I met as fellow music students in Edinburgh many moons ago and he is joining the tenor section, so you will be seeing two new Taylors in September, not just one. We are both eagerly anticipating getting to know much more about Shaldon Singers and the choir's role in the local music scene.

In the meantime I hope that you are enjoying whatever these summer months are bringing your way and that you are vocally refreshed and raring to go when rehearsals start again in the autumn after the current break.

With best wishes

Shirley