

Summer 2017 Newsletter

Dates for your diary

Please note changes to first rehearsal and AGM dates

2017

- 14 Sep First rehearsal
12 Oct AGM (7 pm)
26 Oct Half term
Sat 9 Dec Christmas Concert

2018

- 11 Jan First rehearsal
15 Feb Half term
29 Mar & Easter holiday
3 Apr
Sat 19 May Spring Concert
21-24 Jun Shaldon Festival

Rehearsals

Start at 7.15. At the first two rehearsals in Sep and Jan, tea/coffee and scores are available from 6.45.

Music for Christmas Concert

To include:
Rutter *Gloria*
Bruckner *Ave Maria*

Music for Spring Concert

A Night at the Opera to include:
Selection from Opera Choruses

Voice Representatives

SOP 1 Pauline Rossi 01626 439688
SOP 2 Ro Rickett 01626 873780
ALTO Annie Dayment 01803 324463
TENOR Roger Reynolds 01626 864133
BASS Len Eggleston 01626 867981

Farewell to Aubrey



Chairman's Report

Looking back over the past year, it is hard to realise that Bob only joined us in September. His dedication and musical flair have been evident throughout our rehearsals which have culminated in two marvellous concerts. We have been very fortunate to have him at the helm.

However, after more than 10 years accompanying the choir, we have had to say 'Farewell' to Aubrey Maybin.

Shaldon Singers has been fortunate to have had such an accomplished pianist, able to play even the most difficult pieces and to score-read all the choral parts to support the choir as the music is learned. Not every talented musician is able to play the organ but we have relied on Aubrey for this on many occasions. With his sense of humour and cheerfulness, Aubrey has been a friend to us all, adding so much to our enjoyment of rehearsals and concerts. We will miss him greatly.

The good news is that his place will be taken by Cor van der Wijngaard. Cor has an impressive c.v. having been steeped in music all his life. As well as playing the piano, he is an organist, so we can rest assured that we will continue to hear St. Peter's magnificent organ in future concerts.

Those of you who use the **John Fletcher website** may have seen references to a new subscription structure. In November, we will need to register individual singers at a cost of around £2.50 p.a. per person. There will be a sign-up list for this next term.

Many thanks to the Committee and to you all for your hard work which contributes greatly to making Shaldon Singers such a success.

Enjoy the summer!

Ann

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 the reference

Deadline: 28 Sep 2017

Paying for the full year is a great help to Roger Reynolds, but you may choose to defer a half-year instalment to January, in which case it must be paid by 18 Jan 2018.

Returning in September?

We have a waiting list, so please let Mary Mears or Ann know 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.

Mary: 01626 351895

Ann: 01626 873709

or email: shaldonsingers@gmail.com



BRITISH PORPHYRIA ASSOCIATION

The retiring collection raised £370

Laura Parfitt wrote:

'Firstly, congratulations on a very successful show on Saturday. I would like to apologise most sincerely for not being able to attend.

I would like to thank you all for deciding upon the BPA as your nominated charity. They have been an enormous help to us and many others.

Once again, please accept my apologies and huge thanks.'

Musical Director's Report

As someone who has been involved in education for the past ninety years (it sometimes feels that long!) I am only too aware that the quality of what is achievable is largely dependent on the qualities of those individuals with whom one is working. This year with the Shaldon Singers, I feel truly privileged to have worked alongside an incredibly talented and dedicated group of singers, determined to reach the highest standard of performance possible. So, 'Thank you all!'

The Christmas Concert was a joy to perform and was very much applauded by the audience. The first two chords of Stanford's *Magnificat* that the choir sang were amazing, setting the standard for what was to follow. The intricate part singing and the long melismatic phrases of the Handel *Chandos Anthem* worked well, and there were many glorious moments.

The second half of the programme was, I felt, a festive treat in the Christmas spirit. It included the beautiful 'Laudate Dominum' with Rebecca, who excelled all evening. The fun-filled 'Twelve Days of Christmas', together with Ann and John's reading of Carol Ann Duffy's poem of the same title, made a delightful double act! The highlight for me was the the unaccompanied singing of Poston's 'Jesus Christ the Apple Tree'. I can even now think of it and recall the beautiful phrasing and execution of this sublime piece. Add all this to the singing of the congregational carols: it made an evening to remember.

The summer concert was an evening with Dvorak! The melody in the slow movement of the 'New World' Symphony is well known to all, but is always worthy of a hearing so that we don't forget Dvorak's fabulous orchestration. I thought the orchestra more than did it justice.

The main event was the *Stabat Mater*, and the choir, the soloists and the orchestra absolutely excelled themselves in a superb performance. Only one out of eighty-five members of the choir had any knowledge of this work before we started working on it, but all were soon won over by Dvorak's beautiful melodies and stunning choral writing. To say it was memorable, moving and thrilling is not sufficient: at the end of the final chords I was totally exhilarated.

Thank you all for a brilliant year of music making.

Thank you so much to our amazing Committee, ably led by Ann Pardoe, who all work tirelessly throughout the year to facilitate these concerts.

Finally, I must say a personal and enormous 'Thank You' to Aubrey. Apart from his superb talent and musicianship, which we should never underestimate or take for granted, he is a joy to work with and I wish him and Jenny great happiness in their move to pastures new.

I look forward to seeing you all in September to start on our new programme!

Bob