

Newsletter Summer 2020

Dates for your diary

2020

10 Sep	First rehearsal
15 Oct	AGM
29 Oct	Half term
10 Dec	Final rehearsal

2021

14 Jan	First rehearsal
18 Feb	Half term
1 & 8 Apr	Easter holiday
Sat 8 May	Spring Concert

Zoom Rehearsals

Thursday 7.30 to 9pm.

Music for Autumn session

Fauré: *Requiem* (to 12 Nov)
Christmas Carols (to 10 Dec)

Music for Spring session

Haydn: *Creation*

Voice representatives

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

From the Chairman

Looking back

What a roller-coaster year it has been in Shaldon Singers! We started the year with real enthusiasm under Shirley Taylor's baton, looking forward to diverse works from Monteverdi's *Beatus Vir* to the very modern Karl Jenkins *Laudamus Te*. The inclusion in the December concert of baritone James Quilligan and cellist Tim Pratt was an excellent idea and Tim Crompton, our new accompanist, did sterling work on piano and organ.

We were expecting the normal run through to our May concert – 'A Night at the Opera' featuring Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*. However, by March it became clear that all plans would have to be abandoned. Shirley, whose principal residence was in Salisbury, decided that the time was right for her to retire as our Musical Director. She had taken us magnificently for nearly two years, introducing us to new repertoire and encouraging us to improve our voice production. I know that we are all very grateful to her for her musicality and commitment to the choir.

We were very fortunate that Tim Crompton agreed to take over as our MD. He was keen to keep as many in the Shaldon Singers community together as possible, and so Shaldon Zoom Singers was born. Each week we have been welcomed by Tim's cheeriness and have covered a surprising amount of music, the highlight being Vivaldi's *Gloria*. We have found the rehearsals and run-throughs singing with recorded music really enjoyable.

Looking forward

It is clear that we, and all amateur choirs, will not be able to resume live rehearsals at least until the New Year and, possibly, not even then. The committee has therefore decided to continue with Zoom sessions each Thursday starting on 10 September, from 7.30 to 9pm. For those of you worried about online safety, Zoom has recently raised its levels of security and it is used by our professional body, Making Music.

We would like to encourage singers from other choirs who are not singing at all to join us in our Zoom sessions, so please spread the word and ask around if anyone you know might be interested. The first two weeks will be taster sessions, using a downloadable version of the Kyrie from Fauré's *Requiem*.

Thereafter, we will have full vocal scores of the *Requiem* available from the library. Penny will let us know the arrangements for picking them up from her house.

Subscription for 2020/21: £40

If possible please pay by bank transfer to:

Shaldon Singers
Acc. No.: 01985478
Sort Code: 30-96-06
with your name as reference

Deadline: 22 September 2020

If you prefer to pay by cheque, contact Mary or Ann for details.

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

Mary Mears: 01626 351895
Ann Pardoe: 01626 873709
or email:
shaldonsingers@gmail.com

Thank you

The committee presented Shirley with a cheque as a leaving gift, and she wrote: *'Thank you especially for the leaving gift. It may be some time before I can go out and find something in the shops as a reminder of some really lovely singers and music making, but I will spend the interim thinking of what that might be.'*

The retiring collection from our December concert amounted to £350 for Citizens Advice Teignbridge.



If it becomes possible to hold live rehearsals we will, of course, try to do so, if we can find a venue. I am hoping that we would be able to provide recordings of our rehearsals for anyone shielding or having difficulty meeting in person.

The subscription for 2020/21 has been reduced to £40 for the year. The committee decided that it would be only fair to charge less for these online rehearsals, but we have to cover our annual commitments. Please pay preferably by bank transfer, or alternatively by cheque, by 22 September.

I would like to thank Tim for his tireless efforts to keep the choir going as a community and the Trustees for their hard work and support in what has been a very challenging time. They have all been truly magnificent.

Ann Pardoe

From the Musical Director

At the start of the current season I was happily embarking on a new venture as your accompanist – and goodness, what a lot has changed since September! None of us could have foreseen our current situation or indeed planned for it either! But with huge credit to Ann and the committee as well as the amazing singing community here in Shaldon and beyond we moved swiftly to online Zoom rehearsals when we realised that meeting and singing together was no longer possible during current restrictions.

This has been a learning curve for all of us and despite technological issues from time to time we have had a term of Zoom Singers with a regular attendance of over forty singers – fantastic!

As we have all been exploring this new Zoom territory I chose a programme of well-known works to ease us in, namely Mozart's *Ave Verum Corpus*, the Vivaldi *Gloria* and Handel's Hallelujah chorus. We rehearsed over six weeks and then did our inaugural Zoom Singers performance on 9 July with all members of the online community singing with great enthusiasm and obviously enjoying themselves! We certainly looked the part too with our concert dress – well done to all performers.

As we have continued through the summer months we have been exploring the choral repertoire of some great English composers, Elgar and Vaughan Williams in particular.

It has been my absolute pleasure to take over the baton for this and thank you for being so patient and understanding of my Zoom limitations! It has been wonderful to see so many of you every week and I hope that many of you who felt unable to Zoom with us this term will join us in September when we will embark on the Fauré *Requiem* – there is room on the Zoom for more!

Tim Crompton