

## Newsletter Summer 2024

### Dates for your diary

#### 2024

12 Sep	First rehearsal
24 Oct	AGM
31 Oct	Half term
7 Dec	Concert

#### 2025

9 Jan	First rehearsal
20 Feb	Half term
5 Apr	Choral Workshop: Elijah
10 & 17 Apr	Easter holiday
17 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

John Rutter: Gloria  
James MacMillan: O radiant dawn

### Music for Spring session

Haydn: Creation

### Voice representatives

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

### From the Chairman

It has been another good year for the choir. The feeling I get from Singers I speak to is that they are sure that every rehearsal will be enjoyable, thanks to Tim Crompton's never failing good humour and Anna Cockroft's marvellous accompaniment. They also look forward to concerts that have been well rehearsed because of Tim's meticulous planning and leadership, enabling us singers to perform confidently.

On a sad note, Margaret McElwaine, one of our altos and the last founder member of the choir who was still singing with us, passed away during the year. It was pleasing that choir members were able to sing an anthem at her funeral.

Our current routine of a concert in December with organ accompaniment and another in May with orchestra is serving us well. In December, we were delighted to welcome a young cello soloist, Matthew Cusworth, who played the Domine Deus movement in Vivaldi's *Gloria*. There were many appreciative comments about him from our audience at the refreshments after the concert. In May, the Shaldon Sinfonietta were, as always, magnificent and we thoroughly enjoyed singing the Mozart *Requiem*, which must rank among the most-loved choral works for choirs.

Unfortunately, recent high inflation rates have caught up with us. Because of a number of rising costs including having an orchestra and soloists, and music hire, we need to increase the annual subscription by £10 to **£85**.

We have welcomed a few new singers recently, who have contributed much to the choir. We have room for more new members, though, so please encourage anyone who might be interested to try out the Singers with the two taster sessions we offer. Ideally this would be the first two rehearsals of the season, but will be whenever they first come to a session.

I look forward to seeing everyone back in the Autumn. As usual, there will be refreshments from 6.45pm at the first two rehearsals, on 12 and 19 September, when scores can be collected.

*Take care,*

*Ann*

## Annual subscription: £85

Please pay by bank transfer to:

**Shaldon Singers**

**Acc no: 01985478**

**Sort code: 30-96-06**

**Please include the word**

**SUBS in the reference**

**Deadline: 26 September 2024**

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

## Choral Workshop 2024

Over 100 singers from Devon and beyond attended our successful Choral Workshop day singing Verdi's *Requiem* in April. Gavin Carr was an inspirational musical director, guiding us in vocal skills and interpretation in entertaining fashion. Peter Adcock our outstanding accompanist and four excellent soloists contributed much to a memorable day, particularly the informal run-through performance at the end.

All the effort members of the choir put into organising and supporting the day was much appreciated. We hope that next year's workshop will be just as successful and enjoyable: Mendelssohn's *Elijah* with Brian Kay on 5 April.

## Retiring collections

Thanks to our generous audiences, at our December concert **£440** was raised for Cancer Research UK Shaldon branch, and at the May concert **£467** was raised for Dawlish Community Transport.

## From the Musical Director

Another year of fantastic music-making has flown by – it seems only weeks ago that I was reflecting on the 2022–23 season and here we are looking forward to our 2024–25 season!

Our choir is truly a very special group of musicians. You have worked hard on developing a superb choral sound, singing with energy and passion and some first-class musicianship.

We managed to strike a balance of new repertoire and perennial favourites in the season. The Christmas concert was well received by an enthusiastic audience, as the choir started the Shaldon Christmas festivities with a resounding rendition of Vivaldi's *Gloria*, expertly accompanied by Andrew Millington. I particularly enjoyed our foray into the realms of Russian Orthodox music with Rachmaninov's *Bogoroditse Devo*. This gave us a great opportunity to work on our sonority as a choir and allowed the second basses to explore new territory in the lowest depths of their range!

We are very fortunate to have a well-balanced choir across the sections, which helped us to produce a fine performance of the Mozart *Requiem* and Durante's *Magnificat*. Most ably supported by Anna Cockcroft and the Shaldon Sinfonietta, and four very fine soloists, we were inspired to sing at the top of our game on the night. We were especially fortunate to find Josie Walledge at very short notice to sing soprano for us as sadly Anna Gregory was ill. Josie was amazing and will join us again in the future.

The Mozart is a challenging work in terms of the stamina and musicianship required, so rehearsals were a little bit like preparing for a marathon! We once again had the magical combination of choir, orchestra and soloists all of whom were first rate and created a truly memorable concert for performers and audience.

None of this music-making would be possible without a dedicated team of choir members who work tirelessly to ensure that rehearsals and concerts run so smoothly. My thanks to all those who are committee members, those who help set up the church for rehearsals every week, and to Anna, our wonderful unflappable accompanist and orchestra leader/fixer. We could not do it without you all, so thank you and look forward to seeing you all in September.

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*