

## Summer 2019 Newsletter

### Dates for your diary

#### 2019

12 Sep	First rehearsal
10 Oct	AGM (7 pm)
24 Oct	Half term
Sat 7 Dec	Christmas Concert

#### 2020

16 Jan	First rehearsal
20 Feb	Half term
9 & 16 Apr	Easter holiday
Sat 16 May	Spring Concert
25-28 Jun	Shaldon Festival

### Rehearsals

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

### Music for Christmas Concert

Monteverdi: *Beatus vir*

Bach: *Jesu, joy of man's desiring* (in English)

Vaughan Williams: *Fantasia on Christmas Carols*

Karl Jenkins: *Gloria – 'Laudamus te'*

### Music for Spring Concert

Purcell: *Dido and Aeneas*

Selection of opera choruses

### Voice representatives

SOP 1 Pauline Rossi

SOP 2 Ro Rickett

ALTO Annie Dayment

TENOR Roger Baron

BASS Jeff Grist

### From the Chairman

What an eventful year it has been. Happy 40th birthday to Shaldon Singers!

This time last year we were deep in regrets that we were losing our excellent MD, Bob Carter, and wondering how our new MD would fare. It was very reassuring that it quickly became clear that, in Shirley, we had been fortunate to gain someone with excellent musical knowledge who could create interesting programmes of pieces for us to work on and lead rehearsals in such a way as to give us confidence in ourselves.

When we decided to ask Laura Rossi to compose a song for our 40th birthday, we had no idea what to expect. Would it be ultra-modern and beyond what we could learn? In the event, *Song of the Teign* was an iconic celebration of our area. Shirley made sure that we had plenty of rehearsal time to learn our notes so that we were able to sing our parts with confidence. We have to thank Laura and Shirley for making our 40th anniversary a very special event. All the music Shirley chose for this year has been appropriately challenging, but not beyond our ability, and our two concerts were enjoyable for us singers and well received by our audiences.



Shirley has again selected a variety of pieces of music for this coming year, encompassing a range of composers and styles. There should be something for everyone.

We were all very sorry to say goodbye to Cor and Kaye van der Wijngaard after our May concert. Cor was such a help in maintaining continuity when moving from one MD to another and his sense of humour has been much appreciated. We wish him and Kaye well in the future and hope to see them from time to time. We have a replacement for Cor in Tim Crompton. Tim teaches music at Trinity School and we look forward to welcoming him in September.

I hope to see you all back for another year. We have some new singers who are keen to join us and others rejoining after having had to give up singing for a time. We will have a few spaces for other new people, so if you know of anyone considering singing, now would be a good time. Meanwhile, do enjoy the summer break.

Take care, Ann

## Subscriptions: £60 per year

You can pay by cheque or cash at a rehearsal, or by bank transfer to:

**Shaldon Singers**

**Acc. No.: 01985478**

**Sort Code: 30-96-06**

**with your name as reference**

Deadline: 26 Sep 2019

Paying for the full year is a great help to our treasurer, but you can choose to defer a half-year instalment, paying £30 in Sep and £30 in Jan (deadline for 2nd payment: 23 Jan 2020).

## Returning in September?

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

Mary Mears (treasurer):

01626 351895

Ann Pardoe (chairman):

01626 873709

or email: shaldonsingers@gmail.com

## Thank you

From Cor and Kaye: *Just a little note to thank you for the nice times we had at the choir. Also thanks for the handy gift for spending some time in M&S. We wish the choir a good future and giving nice concerts, which we will try to visit. Enjoy the holiday time.*



The retiring collections from our two concerts amounted to over £1,000. In December, £434 was raised for AIMS, while in May, £600 was donated to the Helen Foundation. Annie and Roger Kirk write: *We are truly grateful for the support. The Helen Foundation benefited over 1,000 young people across Teignbridge in 2018, and this donation will help to maintain its encouragement of young people to experience the excitement and challenges of the arts. Thank you.*

## From the Musical Director

As I look back on my first year as your musical director, I hope, like me, you feel we celebrated the 40th Anniversary season of Shaldon Singers in style. Although last December seems a long time ago, we gave an excellent account of Parry's *Blest Pair of Sirens* and Haydn's *Little Organ Mass*, wonderfully and stylishly accompanied by Cor on the organ and supported by Rebecca's beautiful solo singing. Our two opening numbers by Howard Goodall set the scene with lovely, melodious and at times powerfully delivered choral lines. A selection of varied seasonal music from across the ages rounded off our first concert together, which we played to a full house.

We are very fortunate to be able to perform great large-scale choral works with super professional soloists and a highly accomplished orchestra. This was demonstrated fully in our May celebratory concert in the stunning, thrilling and dramatic rendition of Gounod's *St Cecilia Mass*. From the highly charged Credo to the tender Agnus Dei, we gave a spellbinding performance that the audience really appreciated. Added to this were evocative and rich solos, duos and trios from our three visiting soloists, Heloise, Jonathan and James, who blended beautifully. We were then all brought together with first-rate orchestral playing led by Shaldon Sinfonietta leader Anna.

What a great start the short Purcell piece made; looking straight out with smiling faces, the choir immediately captured the attention of the audience and set the tone of the evening, joyful and confident. Our three Victorian part songs, not easy for a large chorus, added elegance with some reflective and contemplative moments, before our lively world-wide first performance of Laura Rossi's *Song of the Teign*. What a privilege to have Laura compose something especially for Shaldon Singers' 40th anniversary, and how appropriate the choice of the words. Her music resonated with her love of the local area. It had been difficult to envisage the full musical effect of this piece without the orchestra playing their vital role; Laura's imaginative writing for the strings added a whole new layer of creativity and atmosphere. Finally it all came together beautifully.

Putting an audience at ease, and making people feel comfortable in listening to and watching a performance with the confidence that they can just sit back and enjoy it to the full, only happens with solid rehearsal and hard work on the part of the performers. So well done to everyone for trusting that we could pull off our repertoire with aplomb and putting in the necessary rehearsal time. Huge thanks must also go to Ann and the committee for their organisation and activity behind the scenes, without which none of it would happen.

Looking ahead to our 41st season, we are again going to tackle some challenging repertoire with Bach, Monteverdi, Karl Jenkins, and Vaughan Williams in our Christmas concert, when we will again be joined by James as our soloist. In May we will turn to the operatic repertoire for our choice of music. So much that has been written over the ages for choral groups is religious, so it makes a change to sing music that is secular, giving us the opportunity to sing music by composers we might not otherwise get to enjoy. Do put the concert dates in your diary now to avoid missing them!

One significant change is that we said goodbye to Cor in May, thanking him for his playing for us as accompanist and especially for his support for me in my first year. We welcome Tim, an experienced musician who is relatively new to the area and looking forward to joining us.

I hope you continue to enjoy the summer and look forward to seeing you all, along with some new members, in September.

With very best wishes, Shirley