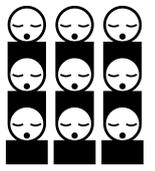




Whitehall Choir



From the Chairman

A glance back at last term and a look at what's to come
Page 1

Dates for your diary

All choir dates can be found on our website, but here they are again for your convenience
Page 1



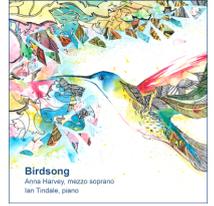
Joanna Tomlinson
Introducing our new Music Director
Page 2

Social media
On Facebook or Twitter? Steps every one of us can take to help raise our profile
Page 2



Next season
A preview of plans for next season
Page 2

Committee members
A list of who's who on the choir committee
Page 2



Ian Tindale
News of Ian's recent achievements
Page 2

From the Chairman

The Easter break is upon us and this gives me time to write the choir newsletter. It was a busy winter term with two concerts and the recruitment of our new Music Director.

Last term started with an intense set of rehearsals for the Bach Magnificat at St Martin-in-the-Fields on Saturday 28 January. It was a lot of hard work preparing for the concert but it was a rewarding experience for all those able to take part. Paul said it was one of the best performances we've ever given. For the rest of the term we focussed our attentions on the Duruflé Requiem and music for Lent and Passiontide at St Margaret's Church Westminster. Despite difficulties with heightened security and high-profile events either side of our concert, the rehearsal took place with great efficiency and the concert drew a good size of audience.

New Music Director

Following a recruitment process that started before Christmas and ran for most of last term, I am delighted to welcome Joanna Tomlinson as our new Music Director. Jo will take over the position fully in September but in the meantime

she is working as our Assistant Music Director, in particular developing exciting plans for future concerts and events in 2018 and beyond. (Read more about Jo on page 2.)

Choir AGM

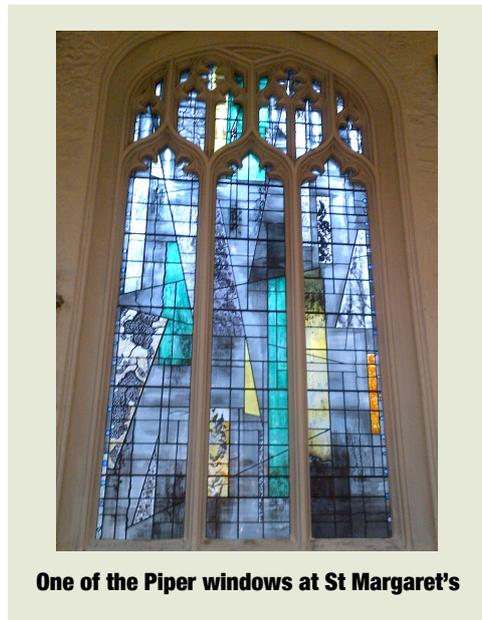
Our AGM will be soon upon us, coming on the Tuesday after our summer concert. I'm very pleased to say that Ruth Eastman has volunteered for the Secretary role and we will hold an EGM so that she can take up her new duties straightaway. At the AGM, all the committee stand down and

a new committee is re-elected. Mark, Penny and Julie are not standing again so there are vacancies for Librarian, Business Manager and Alto Rep. The choir exists by virtue of a great deal of voluntary work, both by committee members and by others who have non-committee roles. Sitting on the committee is your opportunity to help shape the choir so please think about whether you are able to volunteer some of your time and take on one of these very important roles.

This term

Rehearsals for our summer concert at St Peter's Eaton Square begin on **Tuesday 25 April**. If you know of any new members who would like to join us, don't forget to invite them to come along to the first or second rehearsal to try us out.

This will be Paul's last concert with us and we are arranging to hold a farewell party in his honour afterwards under the portico of St Peter's. The concert will start at **7pm** and run without an interval so that we will have time to celebrate Paul's 17 seasons with the choir. We will be inviting a number of guests who have worked with the choir over this time. Please promote the concert to choir friends who have sung with us in the past and would like to join us on this occasion. Mark has sent around the music list for the concert. Please make sure you have either paid for your music in advance or that you bring the money with you to the first rehearsal.



One of the Piper windows at St Margaret's

Jonathan
chairman@whitehallchoir.org.uk

Key dates for 2016/17

- Tuesday 25 April, Spring term starts
- Thursday 6 July, Summer concert at St Peter's Eaton Square
- Tuesday 11 July, Choir AGM
- Tuesday 5 September, Autumn term starts

- Tuesday 12 September, Open rehearsal (details on page 2)
- Friday 17 November, Concert at St John's Smith Square
- Tuesday 19 December (TBC), Christmas concert at St Peter's



Joanna Tomlinson

As mentioned earlier, Jo will be taking over as our Music Director from the start of next season. In the meantime as Assistant Music Director, she will be working with the committee to plan the music we will perform as well as extra events such as vocal workshops and tours.

Jo is bringing a wealth of experience to her new role. Soprano and conductor, she is currently the Music Director of Constanza Chorus and Chamber Choir, the internationally renowned Farnham Youth Choirs and the choirs at Reading University. She is Associate Director of East London Chorus and is also on the tutor panel for the Association of British Choral Directors.

With Constanza Chorus she recently conducted the Brahms Requiem with the London Mozart Players and Mendelssohn's Elijah at Cadogan Hall and sang Mass at St Peter's Basilica in Rome. Farnham Youth Choir is an award-winning upper voice choir, which won two gold medals in the 2015 European Choir Games in Magdeburg.

She has worked with some of the UK's top choirs including the

BBC Symphony Chorus, London Symphony Chorus, Joyful Company of Singers, Royal College of Music Chorus, Manchester Chamber Choir, Trinity Laban Junior College Choirs and Wimbledon Choral Society.

In regular demand as a workshop leader, recent workshops include sessions for UK Choir Festival, ABCD, London Choral Conducting Masterclasses, and the Gabrieli Consort "Roar" and Philharmonia Orchestra education schemes.

On 12 May she is singing in Neil Ferris's professional choir, Sonoro: Brahms Requiem (the four piano hands belong to Ian Tindale and Michael Higgins, details [here](#)) and on 13 May she is conducting the Mozart Requiem and other works including a world premiere by Matthew Taylor at Cadogan Hall with the London Mozart Players (details [here](#)).

Jo writes:

I'm really looking forward to working with you all in September. It's going to be a fun and exciting time taking the Whitehall Choir into its next era together.

Please do have a think between now and September of anyone you know who might be interested in joining us, as it's a crucial time to build numbers back up. In our first year together we'll be working on repertoire that will help us improve vocal quality and intonation before we go for more demanding repertoire the following year.

See you at the summer concert!

Jo

2017/18 season

Our new season continues our tradition of a Handel concert at St John's Smith Square. We will be performing with the London Baroque Sinfonia and our soloists will be finalised shortly. The number

of choir members has dropped significantly over the last year and so, as a special recruitment event, we will be holding an **open rehearsal** evening on the second Tuesday of the autumn term. We are all encouraged to invite a friend to come along and meet the choir, sing with us for a rehearsal and stay behind for a drink afterwards. We also plan to hold our popular Christmas concert at St Peter's Eaton Square; the date is provisionally Tuesday 19 December.

In the New Year we plan to start work on a spring concert of the Brahms Requiem with four-hand piano accompaniment, along with other pieces by Brahms and some Schubert. Our first choice of venue for this concert is St James's Piccadilly.

For the summer concert we will be putting on a programme of American music centred on Bernstein's Chichester Psalms with works by other American composers including Randall Thompson, Eric Whitacre, Norwegian-born Ola Gjielo and Samuel Barber. We are hoping to hold this concert at St Peter's Eaton Square with a party afterwards.



Ian Tindale

Ian continues to develop his career as an accompanist. Having recorded a CD with Anna Harvey entitled Birdsong, he and Anna also featured recently on BBC Radio 3's In Tune. If you missed the broadcast, it's still available [here](#). (Ian and Anna join the programme at about 1 hour 37 minutes in from the beginning.) Ian was also on Proms Extra last summer.

Social media



Facebook and Twitter are increasingly important ways for us to promote our concerts and the Whitehall Choir generally. Our Facebook posts typically reach 200 to 400 people, the exception being our announcement of Jo Tomlinson's appointment which reached more than 7000! Obviously, sharing of posts by readers greatly increases readership.

Facebook works in a dynamic way and the News Feed to individual accounts is automatically tailored to show news items that the Facebook algorithms think will be interesting to the reader. News items that have a lot of 'Likes' will automatically feature more prominently in News Feed lists.

We need to work hard to improve the visibility of our Facebook page in what is a progressively crowded space. Please encourage your friends to 'Like' the choir's page so that they automatically become 'Followers'. Also share our posts to your friends to increase the activity of our page, as this will improve its visibility generally. You can also specifically invite friends to an 'Event' such as one of our concerts. This is a more direct approach and sends a specific message to the recipients with date and time information for the event. Facebook also maintains a list of who has been invited and shown an interest in attending.

In combination with the secretary role, Ruth has volunteered to coordinate our posts on Facebook and Twitter. Please send news items with related pictures or web links to Ruth so that we can maintain an interesting storyline and she'll do her best to include them.

The committee

Chairman: Jonathan Williams

Secretary: TBC

Treasurer: Patrick Haighton

Business Manager: Penny Prior

Librarian: Mark Graver

Publicity: Martin Humphreys

Soprano Rep: Kate Goulden

Alto Rep: Julie Dyg

Tenor Rep: Philip Pratley (acting)

Bass Rep: Daniel Lambauer

Webmaster: Richard Grafen