



Whitehall Choir



Members' Newsletter

August 2013

From the Chairman

Our new season begins next week so, before we meet again, here's a look back to last term and a preview of future plans

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



Le Manoir

More details about our first appearance at Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons as part of its programme of Christmas concerts

Subscriptions

Annual subscriptions are due at the start of term

Page 2

Rehearsals

We have a relatively short time to prepare for our next concert

Page 2



Other events

Come and Sings run by other choirs which might be of interest

Committee members

Who's who on the choir committee

Page 2

New members

With vacancies in all voice parts, now is the time to invite new members to come along

Page 2



From the Chairman

The August Bank Holiday is already here as I put pen to paper for the choir newsletter. We did at least get some summer weather this year and I hope everyone has had a good break.

We finished last season with our anniversary concert at The Banqueting House. Although it was a challenging programme, we put on a very good performance and it was great to hear our accompanist Ian, and Paul's nephew James, playing some solo pieces for the first time at one of our events. The party afterwards was a chance to celebrate 70 years of the Whitehall Choir and we were pleased to have our previous conductor, Christopher Herrick, and his wife Sarah, join us for the occasion. As ever, a lot of work went into organising the concert and special thanks go to Patrick and his wife Jackie for coordinating the party, Daniel for collecting the champagne from France, Mark for transporting the cupcakes and Malcolm for running the box office.

Choir AGM

The Annual General Meeting followed straight on from the concert. In his conductor's report, Paul said that the choir had had another good year and

that the concerts in the autumn and spring term had gone particularly well, the Bach B Minor Mass showing the choir at its best.

Patrick, in his Treasurer's report, underlined the success of the autumn and spring term concerts, reporting a financial return of £4,000 better than the budget for these events. This was largely due to the near sell-out of tickets for the Bach B Minor Mass and better than anticipated audience at St Margaret's, Westminster. This emphasised the



Ready to sing at The Banqueting House

point he had made when first presenting the budget that the choir is heavily dependent on members selling tickets for concerts and this effort must be sustained over the coming year. In addition he commended the refreshments team who through their sales of tea and biscuits last season had contributed £850 to choir funds.

The new committee for the 2013-2014 season was elected unopposed. I am pleased to welcome Jo Tomlinson as Secretary to take over from Liz Walton. Liz has supported the running of the choir for several years, recently as Secretary and before that as Alto rep. Katherine Herzberg stood down as a joint Business Manager but will instead take on responsibility for event management as a non-committee post. All other members continue in their existing roles.

Forthcoming season

The closing date for our composition competition is the 31st August and we already have ten entries. Paul and our other judges, Robert Saxton and Judith Weir, will consider the entries during the autumn and the winner will be announced in December. We will be rehearsing the winning entry after Christmas as part of the programme for our Passontide to Ascension concert and CD recording project. Our summer concert will be at Holy Trinity Sloane Square and we look forward to returning there to perform to the accompaniment of the newly refurbished organ.

New term

We meet again on **Tuesday 3 September**. Hire scores will be available for Handel's Jephtha so, as usual, please arrive a little earlier to collect a copy if you would like one.

Jonathan

chairman@whitehallchoir.org.uk

Key dates for 2013 / 2014

Tuesday 3 September, Autumn term starts

Friday 15 November, Handel's Jephtha, St John's Smith Square

Monday 9 December, Carols at Le Manoir

Tuesday 10 December, Christmas Concert, St Stephen's

Friday 4 April 2014, Passontide to Ascension, St Alban the Martyr, Holborn

Saturday 3 & Sunday 4 May 2014, recording project

Friday 4 July 2014, Summer concert, Holy Trinity Sloane Square



Subscriptions

Annual subscriptions are due at the start of term.

You should have received an email from Patrick asking for your subscription for the new season. Please respond as soon as you can. Timely payment helps our cash flow and reduces the administration for our Treasurer.

Rehearsals

An earlier than usual concert date this term means that we will have fewer rehearsals than normal.

Even starting term on 3 September, we will still have only 11 rehearsals for Jephtha at St John's on 15 November. As was discussed at the AGM, a lower than average attendance last term put a strain on our preparation for our summer concert. Please do what you can to keep absences to a minimum. Paul will produce a rehearsal schedule for the term with details of what will be covered each week. If you cannot

make a rehearsal, take a look at the material you have missed and check your markings with someone else in the same section.

Other events

We regularly receive publicity for events run by other choirs. Here are a couple in the near future which might interest you.



The Vasari Singers, one of the country's foremost Chamber Choirs, is delighted to announce that their next Come and Sing will take place on Saturday September 21st in St Luke's Battersea from 10am-5pm, led by Jeremy Backhouse.

They will be singing some glorious 20th-century English music – Parry's 'Songs of Farewell' and Vaughan Williams' Shakespeare Songs. The price for the day is only £10 (£5 for those in full-time education). If you want to attend, there's a copy of the registration form on the members' page of the Whitehall Choir website.



The Epworth Choir is holding a Come and Sing at Trinity Methodist Church, Brewery Road, Woking on Saturday 5 October, 14:30 - 18:00, with a concert at 19:00. The programme includes extracts from the Rutter Requiem, Brahms Requiem, Dream of Gerontius and Carmina Burana. More details, including how to register, are also on our own website.

Le Manoir

This year we will be making our first appearance at the renowned Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons.

On Monday 9 December we are booked to provide an evening of carols for dinner guests at Le Manoir. We shall be singing approximately ten carols, interspersed with some readings by Jenni Murray of Radio 4 fame. We are amongst other distinguished choirs at this event and we obviously need to make a very good impression. We will therefore have a special rehearsal for the programme on Saturday

7 December. There will also be an afternoon rehearsal at the venue so if you are taking part, you will need to be available for both of these.

We will hire a coach to pick us up from the Victoria area at around lunchtime so as to arrive in Great Milton outside Oxford in time for the rehearsal. The coach will also bring us back afterwards, arriving in London to catch the last trains. Unfortunately we will not be able to take all choir members as the concert is in a small church adjacent to Le Manoir. At the beginning of term, Part Reps will draw up a list of members wishing to take part and who can make both rehearsals. Should we be oversubscribed, Paul will select singers from this list.



Jonathan and Paul with Christopher Herrick at The Banqueting House

The committee

Chairman: Jonathan Williams

Secretary: Jo Tomlinson

Treasurer: Patrick Haughton

Business Manager: Penny Prior

Librarian: Mark Graver

Publicity: Martin Humphreys & Ruth Eastman

Soprano Rep: Kate Goulden

Alto Rep: Alison Williams

Tenor Rep: Alastair Tolley

Bass Rep: Daniel Lambauer

Webmaster: Richard Grafen

New members

As a London choir with singers drawn from a wide variety of locations and occupations, a regular turnover of members is inevitable.

The new season is an ideal time to invite friends to join the choir. It's not too late to suggest they come along to the first or second rehearsal of term to try us out. Ruth has recently produced a new recruitment flyer and we already have some potential new members interested. Don't forget, too, that the 'Social Wing' meets every week after rehearsal at the Greencoat Boy, a chance to chat and socialise in a different venue.