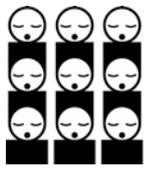


# Whitehall Choir



Members' Newsletter

September 2015

## From the Chairman

*A look back over last year and summary of the year 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

## Choir tour

*Latest news on the choir tour*  
Page 2

## Committee members

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

## Ian Tindale

*News on our accompanist*  
Page 2



## Workshops

*A couple of workshops for your interest*  
Page 2



## Friends

*A reminder of the choir's Friends scheme*  
Page 2

## Courses

*Details of upcoming English Choral Experience courses*  
Page 2

## From the Chairman

*Our new season is upon us so a look back at last season and a review of what we have planned for the year ahead.*

I am writing this term's newsletter on a glorious September evening. It's a fitting end to the summer break with a return to a full diary at work next week and the start of a new Whitehall Choir season. I hope everyone has found some time to relax, take a holiday and visit family and friends.

Our last concert at St Peter's already seems a long time ago. It was a good end to our season and, even with the effects of a London Underground strike, we were rewarded with an appreciative audience. We were pleased to welcome Soo Bishop for the trumpet solo and Henry Neill who charmed the audience with his fine baritone voice. The outdoor reception was a great opportunity to mix with members and guests and enjoy an end of term celebration.

It has been a high profile year for the choir with not one but two concerts at St John's, Smith Square, the second receiving a warm review in *Musical Opinion*. We are starting our new season there as well with *Athalia*.

## Choir tour

Our plans for the choir tour develop and the two concert venues are now finalised. We were pleased to welcome two members of our host choir, [Cantus Novus Wien](#), to one of our rehearsals last term and some of us had a further chance to chat to them afterwards as well. We have a good balance of choir members going but there's still chance for a few more to join if you now find you are able to come. We will be drawing up the final list of participants for the tour company during the first couple of weeks of term so let me know as soon as you can if you are interested in taking part.

## Choir AGM

We had a good turnout for the choir AGM on at the end of term on 14 July. We elected a new committee and approved the choir strategy which

had been developed over the last season. I am pleased to say that Julie Dyg is taking over as alternate representative and I am very grateful to Alison Williams for her dedication to this role and her contribution to wider choir issues over the last few years. Patrick also presented an interim statement on our financial position, pending the end of the choir accounting year in August. Now that the figures are complete, we can see that the last season made a small loss. Each year the committee approves a budget for the season ahead based on our estimated costs and ticket sales. Since we plan at least one season ahead, subscriptions and all our costs in terms of venue hire, orchestra, soloist and rehearsal fees are fixed when the season begins. Thus the only variable is ticket sales - smaller audiences than predicted translate directly to an overall loss. So a plea: please try and sell even more tickets this season!

## New rehearsal venue

Our first rehearsal on 8th September of course marks the beginning of a new era at St Peter's as our new rehearsal venue. The first couple of weeks will inevitably involve some experimentation with the room layout so bear with us whilst we work out what suits us best. We will also need to develop a proper system for admitting people at the side door leading to the upstairs rehearsal room. Again, once we have understood how the door lock and intercom works, we can develop a procedure for this. See you soon!

Jonathan  
[chairman@whitehallchoir.org.uk](mailto:chairman@whitehallchoir.org.uk)



Rehearsing at St Peter's, Eaton Square

## Key dates for 2015/2016

**Tuesday 17 November, Handel's *Athalia*, St John's Smith Square**

**Monday 14 December, Christmas Concert, St Peter's, Eaton Square**

**Thursday 21 April 2016, Four centuries of English song, Holy Trinity, Sloane Square**

**Thursday 28 April - Monday 2 May 2016, Vienna tour**

**Thursday 14 July 2016, Bastille Day concert, St James's Piccadilly**



Inside the Votivkirche

## Choir tour

*Daniel Lambauer has been working hard behind the scenes on plans for our choir tour to Vienna. We now have two venues secured and support by local organisations for publicity.*

Unfortunately, the Stephansdom wanted too much money for us to perform there so instead for our first concert, we will be singing in the Votivkirche in the centre of Vienna. The church was built as a thanksgiving after the attempted assassination of [Emperor Franz Joseph](#) in 1853. The Emperor's brother [Archduke Ferdinand Maximilian](#) set up a campaign to raise the funds for construction from the Austrian Empire and the church was dedicated in 1879 on the silver anniversary of Emperor Franz Joseph and his wife Empress Elisabeth. This concert will be given jointly by ourselves and our host choir. We will perform half the programme each and have a single piece which we will sing together.

Our second concert will be at the Pfarrkirche-Krems and will be at the end of our day out in the Wachau valley. There has been a church on this site since the Middle Ages but the present building dates from 1630. Here we will perform on our own and our planned programme contains a mixture of accompanied and unaccompanied music as well as some solo organ pieces for Ian. All the music will be included in the programme for our concert "Four Centuries of English Song" at Holy Trinity, Sloane Square after Easter.

## Workshops

On Saturday the 19th September the Vasari Singers are running a Come & Sing of the Rachmaninov Vespers at St Luke's Ramsden Road. At the Church of the Holy Spirit in Narbonne Avenue, on the south side of Clapham Common, there are two forthcoming events: a masterclass for young opera singers with Romanian diva Nelly Miricioiu on the 19th. Then on the 20th you can come and sing the Fauré Requiem in honour of Peace Day (which falls on the 21st). Further details here: [Faure & Masterclass](#), [Rachmaninov Vespers](#)

## Hyperion

Each autumn Ian Williamson and Keith Long (a former Whitehall member) organise a bulk order of CDs from Hyperion. This is an opportunity for choir members to buy CDs, for example as Christmas presents, at a reduced price of £9 with a small profit also going to the choir. Ian will give out more details, including how to order, later in the term. In the meantime, if you're an early Christmas shopper, you might want to wait until you see what Hyperion has to offer!



## Ian Tindale

On Saturday 3rd October Ian will be accompanying Henry Neill in a song recital at St Peter Mancroft church in Norwich at 1pm. It will be a programme of German Lieder and English Song. Ian says that it is always sunny when he goes to Norwich if that encourages you to make the journey. Although it's a long way to go, it would be another opportunity to hear Henry who proved so popular in our last concert.

Ian has had a very successful year. In addition to winning the Help Musicians UK Accompanist's Prize in the 2015 [Kathleen Ferrier Awards](#), and the Royal Overseas League Music Competition Accompanist's Prize he was also an accompanist for the [Britten-Pears masterclasses](#) at Aldeburgh with Andreas Scholl.



„Pfarrkirche-Krems“ von Bauer Karl in der Wikipedia auf Deutsch - Eigenes Werk (Original-Bildunterschrift: "selbst fotografiert"). Lizenziert unter CC BY-SA 3.0 at über Wikimedia

## English Choral Experience

The range of courses Paul offers under the title of English Choral Experience continues to expand. New this time are a weekend in Orford on 17th - 18th October and in Winchester on 15th - 16th May 2016. Meanwhile the 2016 French course, 30th March to 6th April 2016, will be at the beautiful Chateau du Fauré at Gensac near to St. Emilion in the heart some of the best wine producing country in France. The regular week in Abbey Dore, celebrating its 10th year, will take place from 24th to 30th July 2016. More details on the courses and how to apply are [here](#).

## Friends

A reminder that the choir operates a Friends scheme. Choir Friends benefit from one complimentary top-price ticket and programme for each Whitehall Choir concert and the ability to purchase any additional tickets at a 10% discount. For more details, contact Ken Holmes.



Outside St Peter's before our summer concert

## The committee

**Chairman:** Jonathan Williams

**Secretary:** Joanna Tomlinson

**Treasurer:** Patrick Haighton

**Business Manager:** Penny Prior

**Librarian:** Mark Graver

**Publicity:** Martin Humphreys

**Soprano Rep:** Kate Goulden

**Alto Rep:** Julie Dyg

**Tenor Rep:** Alastair Tolley

**Bass Rep:** Daniel Lambauer

**Webmaster:** Richard Grafen