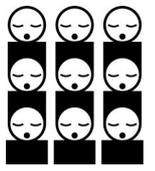




Whitehall Choir



From the Chairman

A look back at 2014 and a preview of what's in store for 2015
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

Workshop day

Details of our Mozart and Schubert study day on Saturday 24 January
Page 2

Choir tour

More details on the proposed choir tour including Q&As
Page 2



Committee members

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



Lunchtime concert

Ian Tindale and Anna Harvey are giving a lunchtime concert
Page 2

English Choral Experience

A reminder of Paul's courses in 2015
Page 2

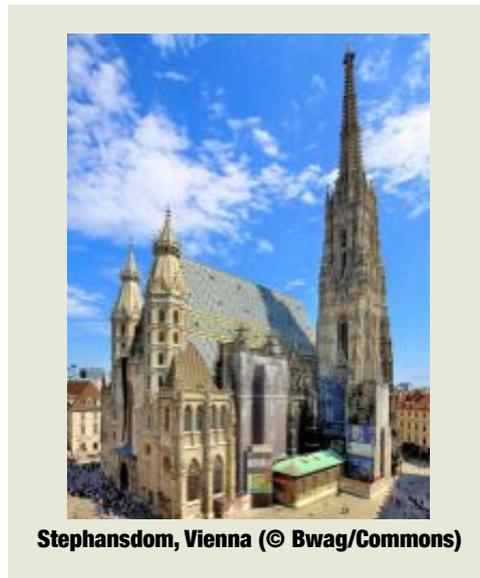
From the Chairman

As 2015 begins, a look back at 2014 and an overview of activities planned for the future.

The new year is just in, the Christmas festivities are almost over and the regular routine, not least the first rehearsal of our new term, begins for many next week. I hope that everyone has had time to spend with family and friends in the traditional way since we last met. Our Christmas concert at Rochester Row was an enjoyable conclusion to our music making in 2014. Looking back, it's been a challenging year for the choir. The preparation of the programme for our Easter concert was very demanding and the follow-on recording project required a lot of energy and concentration. However, we achieved our objective and have a complete CD, accompanied by a very attractive brochure featuring original artwork from a choir member too. I hope some of the CDs made it into Christmas stockings.

Our rehearsal of the two Bach Magnificats promised to be an easy ride for us during the autumn, so much so that Paul introduced Cantata 50 as an extra piece for us to study. With rehearsals admirably supplemented by the choir workshop day early in the term, we were well prepared for

our concert at St John's Smith Square. Alas, we should never be complacent as staging musical concerts is always a complex task with many hazards. Unavailability of the concert venue on the day, however, was not on my list of expected difficulties! Fortunately, thanks to flexibility at St Stephen's for rehearsal and adaptability of the orchestra, we were able to put a programme together on a minimum of preparation. It was not what anyone would have wished but our audience appreciated the reduced-scale concert very much and certainly my audience members were enthusiastic about the programme that we did manage to perform. Many thanks to everyone for



Stephansdom, Vienna (© Bwag/Commons)

being very disciplined on the day and reacting to all the changes of plan as the afternoon unfolded.

So to 2015 and beyond. Following the success of our workshop with Ben Goodson on the Bach Magnificats, we are repeating the formula again this term, more details overleaf. Our programme of Mozart and Schubert for the concert on Maundy Thursday has been chosen specially to suit the occasion and it will be wonderful if we can repeat the success we had two years ago with the Bach B minor Mass.

Daniel Lambauer has been working very hard indeed on the detailed plans for our proposed tour to Vienna in May 2016. We have now received clarification from the tour company on points raised by members and this information, together with more detail on the outline itinerary, is also overleaf. We will be asking for a firm commitment from members during the next few weeks and I sincerely hope that as many of you as possible will be able to come.

New term

Our new term starts virtually immediately next week on **Tuesday 6 January**. Mark will have hire copies of the Mozart and Schubert scores for you so please arrive a little earlier than usual, if you can, to collect your music.

Jonathan
chairman@whitehallchoir.org.uk

Key dates for 2015

Tuesday 6 January, Spring term starts

Saturday 24 January, Mozart/Schubert workshop

Maundy Thursday, 2 April, Spring concert, St John's Smith Square

Tuesday 21 April, Summer term starts

Saturday 18 April, Choir re-auditions

Thursday 9 July, Summer concert, St Peter's, Eaton Square

Tuesday 14 July, Choir AGM

Tuesday 17 Nov, Autumn concert, St John's Smith Square

Workshop

Following on from our successful Bach workshop, we are repeating the formula for our programme of Mozart and Schubert on 24 January.

Ben Goodson will again be taking our workshop for this term's music.

Whitehall Choir
Choral Workshop
Schubert Mass in C minor
Schubert Stabat Mater

When & where Saturday 24 January 2016 with the choir's guest conductor, Benjamin Goodson (benjamin@goodson.com). Registration is at 10am for a 10.30am start. The day will run to 2.00pm with an hour's break for lunch (there are plenty of places to eat nearby). The location is St Stephen's, Rochester Row, London SW1P 1JQ, a 10-minute walk from St James's Park and Victoria stations.

Why Following our successful study day on the Bach Magnificata last September, also with Benjamin Goodson, the Whitehall Choir is hosting this workshop on two more beautiful works - by Mozart and Schubert. Both works will be performed by the choir at St John's Smith Square on Monday Thursday, 4 April 2016. If you would like to be considered for the choir after the workshop day, you can audition at our following Tuesday rehearsal on 27 January 2016.

Cost & music The price of attending is just £10. Please can everyone, choir and guests, bring their own copies of the Mozart (edited by Robin Levens) and Schubert (edited by Benjamin Goodson) Masses. The Schubert will be available to guests in exchange for a £10 deposit which will be returned at the end of the day when you hand back the music. If you intend to come, email events@whitehallchoir.org.uk so that we can ensure there is music set aside for you.

First, we have the possibility to stage a joint concert with Cantus Novus Wien. Formed in 1990, they have a similar outlook to us, performing works from all periods including Handel's *Israel in Egypt* and Haydn's *Creation* as well as premières of contemporary works by Austrian composers. We are hoping that the concert will be in the Stephansdom. Located at the centre of Vienna, the cathedral is the most important religious building in the city and was first dedicated in 1147 with construction continuing until 1511. Secondly, we have an invitation to perform in collaboration with Caritas Wien, one of the largest charities in Austria. In both cases, our hosts would manage the venue bookings and the local publicity. Most importantly, they would raise a local audience, normally very difficult for visiting choirs.

There is much to see in Vienna. For many centuries, the Vienna Hofburg was the centre of the Habsburg Empire. In addition to the Imperial Apartments, visitors can also see the silver collection and a museum in honour of Sisi, the famous Empress Elizabeth. The Kunsthistorisches Museum houses the most important art collection of its kind in the world with paintings by Bruegel, Vermeer,

Rembrandt, Tintoretto, Rubens and Van Dyck. For fans of Jugendstil there are many opportunities to see works by members of the Wiener Secession and to admire buildings by architects such as Otto Wagner. For refreshment, there's a wide range of traditional Viennese cafés including Demel, Café Central and the famous Hotel Sacher. On the edge of the city there's the Schönbrunn Palace, Belvedere and Prater Park with its Ferris wheel made famous in Carol Reed's 1949 film *The Third Man*.

We can also take a day trip further afield to the Wachau valley, one of the most picturesque Danube valleys in Europe and home to the finest Austrian white wines. In addition there are architectural treasures such as the monastery Melk Abbey.

Several members have asked logistical questions about the tour. Here are the answers to the most common ones:

- *Can we bring our partners along and at what price?* Yes, you can bring your partner along at the same price as for choir members. The price will be the same, as we do not have any expenses for the concerts and rehearsals; it covers primarily flight, hotel and tours.

- *What music will we take?* This is still to be decided, as it depends on the strength and balance of the group that goes on tour.
- *What if I pay my deposit and then fail my re-auditions?* We will be holding the re-auditions this season in April. In the unlikely event that you don't pass, your deposit will be refunded.
- *Do we have to take the full package or can we 'opt out' of some items?* Unfortunately it becomes too complicated if members want different options. Also the price is worked out based on the same package for everyone.
- *Can I make my own travel arrangements?* Some people may want to make their own arrangements, to enjoy Vienna for a bit longer or travel onwards on the Continent. Please let your part rep know if this is the case and we will look at the options.
- *If I am over 65 do I have to pay the travel insurance supplement?* You do not need to pay this if you already have your own cover.

As before, the event is open to outside singers who would like to join us for the day to sing the works. This is an opportunity for us to recruit new members and if, at the end of the workshop, they would like to join the choir, they will be able to audition the following week. Please circulate the flyer by email and encourage people to come along.

Choir tour

Now that the outline planning has been done, it's time to commit to going on tour as a choir.

Over the past few months preliminary details of our proposed tour to Vienna in May 2016 have been circulated by email. Daniel Lambauer has been working hard both with his contacts in Austria to establish where we can perform and with the tour company to obtain quotations for the travel and accommodation. This is a fantastic opportunity to visit and perform in one of the most famous cultural and musical capitals in Europe.



Hofburg Palace

Birdsong

Our accompanist Ian Tindale and Anna Harvey (mezzo-soprano) are to give a lunchtime recital, 'Birdsong'.

It will feature songs about birds, with works by Grieg, Rimsky-Korsakov, Howells, Vaughan Williams and excerpts from Berlioz's *Nuits d'Été*. It is taking place on Friday 20 February 2015, 1.10-2.00pm, at St George's Hanover Square (nearest tube: Oxford Street). Tickets available on the door (£10 or £5 students).

ECE courses

Paul is running three ECE courses this year: just after Easter in France then in May and July in Abbey Dore. Follow this [link](#) for more details.

The committee

- Chairman:** Jonathan Williams
Secretary: Joanna Tomlinson
Treasurer: Patrick Haighton
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