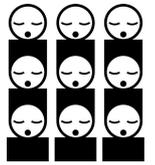




Whitehall Choir



From the Chairman

Our spring term begins next week so before our first rehearsal, a review of last term and a preview of our future plans
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Dates for your diary

All choir dates can be found on our website but here they are again for your convenience
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Verdi Requiem

Our next *Come and Sing* with the Whitehall Orchestra on Saturday 18 May will be the Verdi Requiem, now is a good time to put the date in your diary
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Ian Tindale

A welcome to Ian, our new accompanist who starts next week
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This term's music

A reminder that you need to have your own copy of the music for this term

Mobile phone use

Some guidance on the use of phones during weekly rehearsals
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Members' page

Do you use the members' area of the choir website?
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From the Chairman

Christmas Day is long past but it's not yet Twelfth Night so I can still consider this a Christmas newsletter. I hope that you have all had some time with friends and family during the break and, with the New Year just in, are ready for 2013.

Last term's concert of Poulenc, Duruflé and Langlais took us back to St Margaret's Westminster after about a 10 year absence. It was great to be there again and to sing accompanied by the magnificent organ. The verger and staff made us very welcome and all our concert arrangements proceeded without a hitch. We were rewarded with a good audience and there was a great atmosphere during the interval refreshment break. We had many favourable comments on the Poulenc; the Langlais, although less familiar, generally impressed; and the Duruflé was universally liked.

We also had a good turnout for our Christmas Concert at St Stephens and the audience stayed much longer than usual afterwards so we must have done something right! It was James's final concert appearance and I was very pleased to give him our gift of the book "Company of Pianos", which describes the pianos in the collection at the

Finchcocks Museum. We wish James all the best for the future and welcome Ian Tindale as our new accompanist this term. I have included a brief biography of Ian overleaf.

70th Anniversary

We are now in our anniversary year and will be finalising the programme for the concert at The Banqueting House at our next committee meeting. The plans for our competition for young



Westminster Abbey from Dean's Yard

composers to write a short piece of music continue to develop. We shall perform the winning piece in April 2014 as part of a concert for Passiontide to Ascension at St Alban the Martyr, Holborn.

Recording

It is our intention, subject to members' approval, to record a CD straight afterwards on the weekend of 3 & 4 May 2014, also at St Alban's, where we

made our last recording, *Fairest flower of any field*. This disc has been very successful, giving much pleasure to choir members and their family and friends. It was also favourably reviewed: 'Music you will actually want on your Christmas shopping list' according to *Gramophone* magazine; *Classical Music* magazine, who gave the CD a 4 star rating, said '... the big draw is the choir, its fine balance and floating lines ensuring this is a satisfying selection'. The committee still need to prepare a detailed proposal on how our next recording would be financed but please put these dates in your diary now in any case.

Looking forward

Our 2013/2014 season will begin with a concert of Handel's *Jephtha* at St John's Smith Square on Friday 15 November. This is a new work for the choir and continues our very successful tradition of Baroque concerts at St John's.

New term

We meet again next week on **Tuesday 8 January** to work on the *Bach B minor Mass*. Do remember to bring your own copy of the Bärenreiter score. Also, we will be having a committee meeting on Monday 21 January so please raise any points you may have with your part reps.

Jonathan

chairman@whitehallchoir.org.uk

Key dates for 2013 / 2014

- Tuesday 8 January, spring term starts**
- Thursday 28 March (Maundy Thursday), Bach B minor Mass**
- Tuesday 16 April, summer term starts**
- Saturday 18 May, Verdi Requiem Come and Sing day**

- Monday 1 July, anniversary concert, The Banqueting House**
- Friday 15 November, Handel Jephtha, St John's Smith Square**
- Friday 4 April 2014, Passiontide to Ascension, St Alban the Martyr**

Ian Tindale

Ian starts as our new accompanist this term, please make him welcome.



Ian is currently studying for an MPerf in Piano Accompaniment at the Royal College of Music, where he is a Kendall Taylor Scholar supported by a Fishmongers' Company Beckwith Music Award. In 2011 Ian graduated from Cambridge University with a double First in Music, winning the Tony Bland and Williamson Prizes from Selwyn College. In 2012 Ian was joint winner of the Gerald Moore Award for piano accompanists of song repertoire, and he has also won prizes in competitions at the RCM. Ian studies with John Blakely and Simon Lepper.

Verdi Requiem

We will be holding our next Come and Sing day with the Whitehall Orchestra on Saturday 18 May.

St Sepulchre-without-Newgate will be our venue again for our Come and Sing day with the Whitehall Orchestra. We already have enquiries from some of last year's attendees

about our plans for this year and now is a good time to tell people about the event. Publicity will be available soon. We will aim to have over 100 singers again and to raise some money for the choir and orchestra so please encourage people to keep that date free and come along.

A plea

Mobile phones are part of our everyday lives but we need to adopt a sensible approach to their use during rehearsals.

The use of 'smartphones' during weekly rehearsals has been causing concern and this was raised at the last committee meeting. It is accepted that some members need to leave their phones on a silent alert during rehearsal for urgent messages and indeed sometimes a latecomer rings from outside the vestry door!

However, there is a dividing line between reading essential messages and more regular use for checking social emails and responding to Facebook posts.

It is very distracting for members in the same row if someone is making a

lot of use of their phone, not to mention being disconcerting for Paul. So please can we turn over a new leaf this year and keep phone use to an absolute minimum.

Music for this term

A reminder to find your copy of the Bach B minor mass.



We will be using the Bärenreiter edition of the Bach B minor mass this term. We will not have any hire copies so you must either buy your own copy or arrange to hire one until after the concert. It is available from Musicroom or Chappells for about

£12. See also our very own choir Amazon mini-site where other useful purchases are additionally listed:-

<http://astore.amazon.co.uk/whitehallchoir-21>

Members' page

The members' page on the choir website is regularly updated with useful information.

Reserved for members' information, this part of our website is protected with a password to screen the content from search engines which regularly trawl the internet to pick up information for spam emails.

Information relating to the current term is posted there including how to buy the music, where to find midi files for rehearsal and facts about the performance and venue. Documents relating to choir business such as minutes of previous Annual General Meetings and committee meetings are available as well as committee job descriptions, the choir's constitution and back copies of this newsletter.

In addition, workshops of interest run by other organisations are listed to save giving details out during the weekly notices. So whether you need to find out what's going on in committee or where you might be able sing if you're at a loose end one weekend, it's always worth checking the members' page. You never know what you might discover!

And whilst on the subject of the internet, don't forget our Facebook page. To find the Whitehall Choir page, simply type 'Whitehall Choir' into the search section at the top of your Facebook and you'll find us. We keep the page updated with all the latest information about concerts so it is then really easy to invite your friends and provide them with all the information they need.



Concert preparations at St Margaret's Westminster

The committee

Chairman: Jonathan Williams

Secretary: Liz Walton

Treasurer: Patrick Haighton

Business Managers: Penny Prior & Katherine Herzberg

Librarian: Mark Graver

Publicity: Martin Humphreys, Ruth Eastman

Webmaster: Richard Grafen

Soprano Rep: Kate Goulden

Alto Rep: Alison Williams

Tenor Rep: Alastair Tolley

Bass Rep: Daniel Lambauer