



# AXMINSTER & DISTRICT CHORAL SOCIETY



## *SoundBites - March 2018*

*A newsletter for members of Axminster & District Choral Society*

*Editor Juliet Henham*

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Date	Event	Programme
17-Apr-18	Rehearsals resume	
28-Apr-18	Spring concert	Brahms <i>Requiem</i> - 2 pianos, Peter conducting + one of Brahms' Organ Chorale Preludes
01-May-18	Start rehearsals for Summer	
22-May-18	Committee	
16 Jun -18	Summer Concert	Party pieces, bring and share
19-Jun-18	Committee	
04-Sep-18	Autumn term begins	
18-Sep-18	Committee	
16-Oct-18	AGM	Bring and Share
10-Nov-18	November concert	Vaughan Williams <i>Dona Nobis Pacem</i> & 6 songs in time of war + <i>Lark ascending</i>
15-Dec-18	Christmas Concert	Including Pergolesi's Magnificat and Holst's Christmas Day
15-Dec-18	Autumn Term Ends	

#### *Chairman's Column*

The response to our survey was tremendous and your committee has been working hard on the ideas you have put forward. Besides trying out a more sociable break during rehearsals, we are preparing a members handbook, updating the website, and most important of all choosing what we sing. The two Peters have chosen some splendid works for 2019 starting with Haydn's – "The Seasons" for our Spring concert, Handel's "Acis and Galatea" for our Summer concert and Puccini's "Messa di Gloria" and Elgar's "Psalm 29" for our autumn concert. Their idea for Spring 2020 is CPE Bach's "St Matthew Passion". The Committee hope you are as excited about this repertoire as we are!

We are resting “Come and Sing” workshops but wonder if sufficient numbers would be interested in an “Improve Singing Skills” workshop later in the year with an expert voice coach. Please let me know if you are interested.

---

---

### ***The Spring Concerts – Snippets – Prepared by Brian McConkey***

No doubt when you meet friends and family over the Easter break the talk will return at some point to our April concert.

Here are a few snippets that you may wish to share.

- We have had more than 80 singers working hard at rehearsals since January and the choir is fast reaching performance level.
- We are relishing the challenge of singing this magnificent work in German.
- Many regard it as the greatest classical choral work.
- It is widely regarded as Brahms masterpiece.
- It is not a requiem in the traditional sense. The emphasis is not on the dead but on finding consolation for the living. “Blessed are they that mourn.” It’s about comfort for the bereaved.
- It is life affirming with powerful uplifting choruses. Joy “*Freude*”
- There is tender gentle consolation “I want to comfort you, as a mother comforts” *Ich will euch trösten.*
- The beautiful language of Luther’s translation of the Bible is well suited to the music.
- The work was a great success for Brahms. After the Leipzig performance in 1869 he was able to demand five times as much for the Requiem as for any other work that he had sold before.
- Brahms wrote the piano accompaniment in 1871 for smaller venues. Unlike some of the great classical composers he was supportive of amateur choirs.
- Andrew Millington and Peter Lea-Cox are well established performers and well known in the South West. Both of our soloists, Harriet Mountford, soprano and Julian Rippon, baritone, have sung with us before.
- There will be wine, soft drinks and savoury snacks after the performance.

---

---

### ***From the Librarian***

Contact details – 01404 43805 or [ejtwining@gmail.com](mailto:ejtwining@gmail.com)

#### **Thank you**

Many thanks to all those who completed our survey at the beginning of term. If you have not yet had a copy of the results please let me know.

#### **Summer/autumn music**

Copies of the Vaughan Williams *Dona Nobis Pacem* and *Six Choral Songs* will be available from May 1<sup>st</sup> (our first rehearsal after the Brahms concert). If you want to buy your own copies, both are published by Oxford University Press. The Six Songs seems to be out of print, but you may be able to track it down on line.

If you are ordering from ChoraLine please note their new phone numbers 01285 644845 & 01326 567300. The website is [www.choraline.com](http://www.choraline.com) and email [music@choraline.com](mailto:music@choraline.com). You will get a 10% discount if you quote our discount code AXMINSTER when ordering.

### **Why do we sometimes get music scores that are in bad condition?**

Most of the music we borrow comes through Somerset Libraries. This is by far the most economical source, with the added advantage that we can have the copies for as long as we need them at no extra charge. However, public libraries have been starved of funds for decades, and as a result they have seldom been able to buy works by contemporary composers, or to replace old copies.

We do sometimes have to borrow from other sources, but this means much increased costs. Most of them charge at least twice as much, some much more than that, and they are not always better copies.

If you have a problem with the copy you have been given, do please tell me and I will do my best to make things easier.

### **For new members**

#### Black choir folders

We use black folders for our concerts. If you do not already have one, please let me know. I have supplies of two different types that you can buy.

#### Returning your music

Please return your music in the condition in which you received it. That means rubbing out any markings you have put in (unless you have already had to rub out those of a previous user!). You can drop off your copy at the end of the concert – there will be boxes in the chancel.

Alternatively, if you are coming to the rehearsal on May 1<sup>st</sup> you can return your copy then.

If you aren't singing in the concert please return your copy as soon as you have finished with it by giving it to me or another member of the choir. Please don't just leave it in the Minster. If you have any problems getting your music back on time just let me know and we will sort something out.

Many thanks

***Elizabeth Twining***

---

---

### ***Patrons and Sponsors***

We have about ten Patrons of the Society who support us on a regular basis. We also have some regular sponsors and advertisers who support the Society by taking advertising space in the concert programmes. As we are always looking for new contacts for support it would be wonderful to know if anyone else has any contacts of people/ firms whom they think might be interested in coming on board. If so, please speak to Rozanne Bulmer, Committee member and Patrons and Sponsor Co-ordinator. 01404 881838."

Many thanks,

***Rozanne Bulmer***

---

---

### ***Vaughn Williams Rehearsal CDs – Mike King***

Because the music of Vaughan-Williams is still in copyright, I cannot produce copies of rehearsal CDs for either the 6 songs or Dona Nobis Pacem. You can listen to rehearsal tracks online at:

[http://www.cyberbass.com/Major\\_Works/Williams\\_RV/williams\\_rv\\_DonaNobi.htm](http://www.cyberbass.com/Major_Works/Williams_RV/williams_rv_DonaNobi.htm) or  
<http://www.choralia.net/vw03mp3/>.

You can buy rehearsal CDs from ChoraLine at <http://www.choraline.com/learn-to-sing-vaughan-williams-dona-nobis-pacem>

Members can get 10% discount from ChoraLine by quoting our reference AXMINSTER.