



SoundBites – March 2017

A newsletter for members of Axminster & District Choral Society
Editor Mike King

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

There are a few changes since the previous edition of *Soundbites*:

| Date | Event | Notes |
|------------------------------|---|--|
| 21 March 2017 | 6:45 to 7:15 Music sale | See below |
| 4 and 11 April 2017 (Easter) | No rehearsals | |
| 18 April 2017 | Rehearsals start again | |
| 29 April 2017 | Spring concert | Jongen - Mass and Rutter - Gloria |
| 2 May 2017 | Rehearsals for summer concert begin | Including: Brahms <i>Liebenslieder Walzer</i> ; Rutter: <i>Sprig of Thyme</i> , and Elgar <i>from the Bavarian Highlands</i> |
| 10 June 2017 | Summer concert | Brahms, Rutter Elgar etc |
| 13 June 2017 | Bring and share, introduction to autumn music | "Term" ends |

Summer Break

| | | |
|------------------|---|--|
| 5 September 2017 | Rehearsals for autumn concert begin | Mozart - Coronation Mass, Michael Haydn - C minor Requiem |
| 14 October 2017 | Workshop with Andrew Millington | Elgar: <i>Dream of Gerontius</i> |
| 17 October 2017 | Rehearsal followed by AGM and Bring and Share | |
| 25 November 2017 | Autumn concert | Mozart, Michael Haydn |
| 16 December 2017 | Come and Sing Messiah | With a couple of solos and perhaps some readings |
| 2 January 2018 | Rehearsals for spring concert begin | Brahms - German Requiem (in German) |

Do we have your correct e-mail? Soundbites and other important information is sent out by email. Please tell Christine Ashford if it has changed. It is always worth checking your inbox before each rehearsal!

 **Music sale – a chance to grab a bargain** 

A friend of Di Holman's has given us a collection of printed music which we are going to sell for the benefit of the society at *extremely* reasonable prices. There are vocal sets, some miniature complete scores, a variety of songs and song collections, and some instrumental items. Come along between 6.45 and 7.15 on March 21st to look and buy. If you'd like a bit more detail in advance please see Elizabeth.

From the Chairman and Secretary

Future concerts

We have a busy year ahead with both concerts and workshops as you will see from the dates given above. Many of us are finding the music this term quite challenging but what a wonderful sense of achievement we have when we get it right. The concert in April should be an exciting and uplifting event with the brass ensemble to accompany us so we need to get the posters well circulated and sell as many tickets as we can. Brian will be getting us his usual excellent coverage in the local press and publications.

Following the success of the Christmas Carol Concert we have invited the children from St. Mary's School to take part again in the summer concert and hope their choir will perform a few items. We will only have six weeks to rehearse and Peter is planning to do a selection from Brahms' *Liebeslieder Walzer*, Elgar's songs *From the Bavarian Highlands* and Rutter's *Sprig of Thyme* - working to achieve our usual standard in a tight time frame.

Our November concert will be two works - a Coronation Mass by Mozart and Requiem in C minor by Michael Haydn, in complete contrast of style to the two earlier concerts which all helps to provide a variety of music in the locality and demonstrates our versatility.

Workshops

As part of this busy year, we will have two workshops: an opportunity to have a preview of *The Dream of Gerontius* with Andrew Millington on October 14th and a 'Come and Sing' of Messiah choruses in December. Both these events will be open to the public as well as choir members and information about them will be circulated to other choirs in the district.

Communications

Ray Tomes continues to work on developing the website and hopes by the end of the term to have the choir forum up and running. He is also developing a forum for committee use. It would be good to have some regular up to date photographs for use both on the website and for publicity purposes. Does any member have a friend/husband/wife/partner who could take some pictures at concerts and maybe in a rehearsal?

Running the Society

We still have some gaps in the spread of village reps to put up posters in your own locality. Please have a word with Sue.

We are also seeking a co-ordinator to identify other concerts that members may like to go to and where, with sufficient interest, we could make a block booking with a reduced ticket price and perhaps arrange coach transport. Again, have a word with Sue if you think you can help.

Fund-raising

What a successful afternoon we had when our new President, Andrew Millington, came along with his friend and colleague David Davis recently and gave us such an outstanding demonstration of their versatility on both keyboards and feet as they moved from one instrument to another. It was such an unusual and varied selection to perform on organ and piano and the standing ovation from such an appreciative audience was well deserved. Over £1,000 was raised towards costs of future concerts. Thanks to all involved who helped in any way and especially to Andrew and David.

Rosemary is planning to organise a coffee morning in town one market day, but the Church room has now been reduced in size to such an extent that we will need to be able to rely on better weather to use the space on the green nearby as well. Details later.

Social Activities

You will be aware that Heather is arranging a quiz and supper evening on the 24th March at Kilmington Village Hall. There are still a few tickets left so please spread the word among your friends.

The Chairman

Cam looks forward to returning and picking up the reins shortly after enjoying the delights of family life down under.

From the librarian

Summer 2017

I will have copies of the music for the summer concert available at the rehearsal on May 2nd.

Black folders

We use black music folders for our concerts. I have two types available, one at £3 and one at £6. Please let me know if you need one and I will bring samples for you to look at.

Returning your spring concert music.

If you are not singing in the April concert please return your music as soon as you have finished using it. If you are singing in the concert you can return it either at the end of the concert (there will be boxes in the chancel where you can leave your copies) or at the rehearsal on May 2nd. If you have a problem returning it please let me know as soon as possible so we can arrange for it to be collected. My phone number is 01404 43805, email ejtwining@gmail.com.

Whenever you return it, please rub out your markings.

Help please

As we will have orchestral sets for two works to return after the April concert, help with rubbing them out would be much appreciated.

Many thanks

Elizabeth

Support our soloists!

For the Spring concert, Peter has arranged for members of the Exeter University Chapel Choir to sing as soloists. This will a splendid opportunity for these students to perform as soloists with a large choir.

Their choir is going to perform a concert of their own in **St Paul's Church, HONITON on Saturday March 18th at 7pm**. It would be good if we could help get a good turnout. Details are on the table.

Any comments or suggestions about *Soundbites*? Tell Mike King: mike-honiton@hotmail.com