

Newsletter, March 2013

To All Members

The main purpose of this **Newsletter** is to look forward to the April concert, and all matters related.

Rehearsal Arrangements:

- Normal Monday rehearsals will take place on 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th March.
- Easter Bank Holiday falls on Monday April 1st, so our rehearsal will be held instead on **Tuesday, 2nd April.**
- It is essential that everybody attends these rehearsals; as you know we need to raise our standard to the highest possible level – and we are not there yet.
 - It is apparent that the German words and pronunciation is the current stumbling block. You are asked to do your homework to become completely used to the text, so that we can sing the work with confidence. Listen to a C.D too.

Concert Day - April 7th:

- The Choir's part of the rehearsal will start at 12.00 noon sharp – and you are asked to be ready to take your seats on stage **no later than 11.45 a.m.**
- The conductor hopes to release you soon after 1.00 p.m. for your lunch break. You will have to be ready to go on stage for the actual Concert **no later than 2.45 p.m.**

A word about going on stage – please lead on when told to and do not wander on individually as done last November. It looks undisciplined and we got plenty of bad reports fed back to us for that. **Line Representatives** – please keep control of your section.

- Running Order:
 - At the concert we sing Brahms *Academic Festival Overture* Chorus first, and then sit through the second orchestral piece with nothing more to do before the interval.
 - Do not do anything other than sit quiet and still please no water, music shuffling or anything: the same of course applies during the first 3 movements of the Beethoven after the interval.
 - There will be a presentation to Ralph Hebditch in the interval and it will probably not be appropriate to leave the stage immediately at the start of the interval.

Folders:

- Please use your black folders to cover the score. For Members who don't have one Diana Blower will have them available for sale at rehearsals on March 18th, March 25th & April 2nd. New Members will be able to buy folders at the subsidised price of £3 – for Members who may need to buy replacement we will have to charge £5, which is their cost to the Society.

Dress:

- Ladies will wear normal concert dress. The RTWSO have asked for dresses rather than trousers and please meet this requirement if possible/practical, particularly if you are seated in the front row.

- Men will wear dark lounge suits, white shirt and sombre tie rather than the usual D.J., that they regard as more appropriate for a Sunday afternoon event.
- There may be further last-minute instructions as we continue to discuss the arrangements with the orchestra host.

Group Photograph:

- Some years ago we had a group photograph taken for promotional purposes, but this is no longer useful as it contains people who are no longer with us.
- We want to take a new one when everybody is together and the proposal is to do this on Sunday, 7th April at 11.15 a.m. on the steps of the Town Hall.
- The final details will be stated nearer the time but please arrange to be there for this, in your concert dress. Maybe under the canopy of the Assembly Hall if wet.

Ticket Sales:

- Tickets are now on sale to the public at the Assembly Hall Box Office for Haydn *Creation*.
- Tickets for members and their families/guests will be on sale to the choir from Monday 8th April for a 5-week period. Please do your best to make this concert a success, and all members are asked to sell at least 4. Please do not leave it to the Box Office to sell them, as they do not actively promote the event and charge a hefty commission for their service.
- Flyers are now being printed and will be ready for you to publicise the concert.
- Advertisers are being sought for inclusion in the programme to help defray the cost of printing and production. So if you know of somebody who might like to be included to help their business along, or are just supportive of our efforts, then please talk to Melissa Richards [alto] or Gavin Grant [bass].

Open Rehearsal:

To attract new members we are holding an ***Open Rehearsal*** on Monday 11th March.

- Please ensure that you welcome any guests and visitors warmly, and show us in the best possible light. Newcomers may find the experience to be a little daunting.
- In the first half we may sing some works that we know well, to demonstrate our talent and to make the visitors feel a little more comfortable.
- We will also invite them to watch us rehearse the Beethoven/Haydn so that they know what a real rehearsal looks like, and hopefully some of them will have had some choral experience and understand this.
- Magali Nicole [alto] has kindly offered to take the lead in our on-going recruiting drive and I hope you will try to assist her in any way that you can.
- New blood, particularly men, is required to keep the choir strong and active.

Thank you everyone for your continuing support

Roy Dunstall - Chairman

P.S.

If you lose this letter before the concert it will be posted on our website, which contains many other useful and interesting entries. Our thanks and appreciation to Gavin for keeping it up to date.