

## Newsletter: March 3rd 2014.

### A VERY WARM WELCOME to our NEW MEMBERS:

- All 4 voice-sections have welcomed new Members into our midst since the beginning of the year – and several more will be joining us on March 17<sup>th</sup>.  
We are delighted to have you all with us, and hope you enjoy the experience.

### REBECCA and DANNY in the QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL:

- Some 20 + Members and friends were lucky enough to be able to travel to the South Bank Centre and watch and listen to Rebecca directing *The Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment* – in a rare evening devoted solely to the music of C. P. E. Bach.
- Another rarity was being able to listen to a *Fortepiano* – an instrument on which Rebecca's husband – Danny Driver – performed several works.
- All of us who attended had a delightful evening.

### Our SPRING CONCERT: 7.30pm March 15<sup>th</sup>: “If Music be the Food of Love”

**Will all Members please remember to work hard at tickets sales between now and March 15<sup>th</sup>!**

#### Please note carefully details of all arrangements:

- The concert is taking place in the *Millennium Theatre* at Holmewood House School – Langton Green
- For safety's sake, and to avoid congestion, traffic flow through the whole site of the School is **one-way only** – and flows from West to East:
- Coming from TW, you should turn left at a small cross-roads [1.3 miles from the Spa Hotel] onto **Barrow Lane**, which leads directly into the western end of the school premises.
- We will access the *Jubilee Theatre* NOT through its main Front Door, but via the **side** entrance which is some yards down the east side of the outside of the building: this entrance is identifiable from the wording **Music School** on the door.
- Immediately upon entering through this door you will see 1 door to your right [for use by our ladies] and another to your left [for our gentlemen]

### ORDER of the DAY for March 15<sup>th</sup>:

- Everyone should plan to arrive by 3pm in order to start our rehearsal at 3.30pm prompt: you are encouraged to "ride-share" where possible, as although some parking is available, it is limited. The rehearsal will finish by 5.30pm
- We will be using black folders [or black paper] to cover the Brahms music. For Members who don't have a black folder Diana – our Librarian - will have them available for sale at our rehearsal on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. 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.
- **Normal Concert Dress:**
  - Ladies: long black skirts or trousers, black long-sleeved tops; if worn, jewellery must be unobtrusive.
  - Men: dinner jackets or dark lounge suits, black bow tie, white shirts.
- For those who may be unfamiliar with the venue, we confirm that The Millennium Theatre has excellent changing/toilet facilities.

## **Our MAY CONCERT: Saturday 7.30 May 10<sup>th</sup>: “An Evening at the Opera”**

- The last time we performed a programme in this style it was very well received and we hope to repeat the success. TWO professional soloists from the Royal Opera House have been engaged to ensure that we give a first-class concert to our audience.
- Tickets on sale from March 17<sup>th</sup> – let’s try to beat the November attendance!!
- **Changes to rehearsal schedule owing to Easter:**
  - There WILL now be a rehearsal on **April 14<sup>th</sup>**, but this will NOT take place at St John’s: it will be held in the **HALL** of *King Charles the Martyr Church* at 7.30 pm [3 Warwick Park]
  - There will be NO rehearsal on Easter Monday April 21<sup>st</sup>
  - HOWEVER we will rehearse instead on **Thursday April 24<sup>th</sup>**, in the CHURCH at St John’s at the usual time, and look to Members to make every effort to be there that evening
  - As usual, an extra rehearsal will also be held on the Friday before the Concert: **May 9<sup>th</sup>** at 7.30 at St John’s.
- The 2013-2014 Season will close at the end of this Concert.

## **Please note these further important Dates:**

- Our new 2014 – 2015 Season will begin on **September 1<sup>st</sup>** – in order to be sure to have time to prepare *Gerontius* for our November 9<sup>th</sup> Concert in the Assembly Hall
- **Friday December 5<sup>th</sup> 2014** is also a crucial date that we urge Members to put in their diaries right away
  - We will be staging a special [early] Christmas Concert at 2.30pm on that afternoon, on behalf of our principal Corporate Sponsors – *St. James Place* – who will be offering this special Xmas celebration to about 500 of their clients.
  - The event will be a “by invitation only” affair, and will take place in *All Saints Church* in Maidstone: a good turnout will be needed to ensure that we do justice both to the occasion and to the munificence of our Sponsors.
- **Saturday and Sunday December 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>**: through the good offices of Guy Huntrods, we are hoping to reach an agreement with **Chartwell** to sing Carols on December 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> during the special Christmas event at the House. As well as being valuable fund-raiser in its own right, we can hope this could also evolve into a longer-term association with Chartwell, with the benefit of exposure to a much larger group of supporters and possible audience through their very wide-spread appeal across the whole of SE England and beyond. May we appeal to as many Members as possible to plan to keep a few hours free on either of the 20<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup> to support this goal with their voices!
- **Sunday December 14<sup>th</sup>**:
  - The date of our traditional Christmas Concert in Goudhurst.

## **Subscriptions**

If you only paid half of your subscription at the beginning of the Season, or are one of our very welcome new Members, may we politely remind you that any unpaid 2<sup>nd</sup> half subscription is by now overdue? Please give your cheque to Elena Gente without delay. Delaying payments makes a lot of additional work.

AND if you have not completed a Gift Aid form please ask for one: it is a great benefit to the Society without costing you any extra.

## **Fund-raising:**

- A fascinating illustrated Lecture was given on February 7<sup>th</sup> by Martin Williams – supported by his wife Sue – on their hair-raising experiences during the 1979 Iranian Hostage events, at a time when Martin was serving in the British Embassy in Tehran. We are most grateful to them both for the trouble they took to share their experiences, and to help us raise approximately £800 towards the Society's funds.
- A fund-raising Recital that Anthony had very kindly offered us for April 14<sup>th</sup> has – very regrettably had to be postponed to a future date to be announced. This was due to the fact that St John's Church had mistakenly overlooked our longstanding booking for use of the Church that evening – and had planned a Church event that it was felt had to take precedence!
- We continue to be most appreciative of Muriel Thatcher's week by week commitment to the *Bring and Buy a Book Sale*.....which again is contributing to the Society's funds , as well as providing much appreciated fresh reading matter to its users. Carrying heavy boxes of books to and from the store-cupboard every week is a true labour of love!
- And of course Jean Finch's exemplary long-standing dedication to the organisation of the weekly Raffle is a much appreciated steady source of extra income throughout the Season.
- But let's not leave it to the same faithful few: we still hope other Members will come forward with their own different thoughts as to how they can also help raise funds in new ways.
- A recent new Member of the alto section – **Jane Richardson** – has done just that, and is offering a very original approach to our goals: here is the proposal she is making to Members of the Society, and indeed their families and friends too:

*My name is Jane Richardson; I joined RTWCS at the beginning of this year and am enjoying the challenge; especially singing in German!*

*Professionally I am a Senior Independent Beauty Consultant with Mary Kay Cosmetics (UK). Many of you may never have heard of this company because our wonderful products are not sold in any retail outlets; you can only purchase from a consultant like me. The company was founded by Mary Kay Ash in 1963 in the USA and Mary Kay UK started 21 years ago and we are in the top 10 Brands worldwide for skincare products!*

### *I TEACH SKINCARE & MAKE UP TECHNIQUES*

*I would like to offer all members of the choir the chance to try the products and at the same time raise funds for RTWCS. If you book a skincare class/party with 3 or more guests then I will donate 20% of the total sales of that party to RTWCS. Your guests do not have to be choir members to qualify. Any subsequent re-orders of products will produce a 10% donation throughout 2014. The parties are absolutely FREE with no obligation to make any purchases. If you enjoy the skincare we can follow up with a Make-Up party, with similar donation from the proceeds.*

*To book a party please call me on 07792 845604 or 01892 553912 or email [janerichardson.marykay@gmail.com](mailto:janerichardson.marykay@gmail.com) or see me at the rehearsals. Make sure you quote RTWCS when you book!*

*And although this is mainly aimed at the ladies we do have skincare products for men – so I dare you to book a men only session!*

## **A retirement after long and distinguished service:**



### *A Message from the Chairman:*

Eileen Gall, a Member of the Alto section, has taken the decision to retire after 50 years of continuous service to the Society.

Her first concert was St Matthew Passion, conducted by Sir Adrian Boult, on 15th March 1964. The concert formed part of the Society's Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

Over that period she will have seen many changes within the RTWCS, and sung under the baton of many conductors, including Trevor Harvey, Adrian Boult, Myer Fredman, Alan Wickes, Derek Watmough, Steven Devine and Richard Jenkinson, before Rebecca came to join us.

A period of 50 years in the Society is almost unprecedented, although I think that Mary Standen (Registrar for many years) may still hold the record, and we wish her well in her retirement. Such loyalty and dedication is exceptional. She has undertaken to become a Patron so that her support to the Society will continue.