

Waynflete Singers News Autumn 2006

Concert Feedback

Mozart Requiem, June 2006

Our Chairman, Martin Tomsett, writes:

"To sing the *Mozart Requiem* is always a very special and moving experience and the performance in June was no exception for me. Many thanks are due to Andy for his clear and unflustered leadership. The performance was well received by the audience and I'm pleased to say that the promoters, Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, were very happy – which means another concert with them during their next Cathedral series."



And our Conductor, Andy Lumsden, writes:
"Our Mozart concert in the summer term went very well. I was particularly impressed that you took so well to being mixed up again - it does make a huge difference to the sound, improving the tuning immensely, but also giving a broad warm tone to the sound produced. I am aware that some of you dislike being mixed up intensely, and we may move to 'clusters' of voices in the future. Whilst you may feel exposed, and we do occasionally lose clarity of leads because people feel nervous, it really does help if you can hear the other parts clearly. This system is not common amongst larger choirs, and only the best can sustain it, so well done. We were also very well served

by our soloists, who on the whole gave a very pleasing performance.

Membership and Re-Auditions

By now you will be relieved to hear that the re-auditions are over. Thank you to Helen Longworth and Fiona Gale, and to you all for your co-operation with them in making the exercise as smooth running as it was. Thanks too to Andy and Sarah for their friendly way of putting us through our paces. Some of us now will have the challenge of exploring new voice parts.

At the end of last term, we sadly bade farewell to some members for whom personal reasons have dictated their retirement from singing with us. Liz Pakenham (A2) – 8 years, has led our singing of carols in the Brooks for the last 2 years and will again on 16 December – watch this space; she also formed and led the smaller Gloriana Choir with great success and often twists our arms to sing at weddings and funerals. Others include Diana Hughes (S1) - 2 years, Judy McKelvie (S1) – a redoubtable 24 years, Joyce Payne (A1) and Diana Shilham (A2) – 4 years, Andrew Hartley (B1) – 3 years, Stephen Austin (B2) – 2 years, and one of our newest members, Olive Leddy (A2) – 2 terms, has had to return to New Zealand because of her father-in-law's illness; let's hope she can return to Winchester before too long. We thank them all for their contributions to our choir and wish them well in the future.

Still on the subject of membership, it was good to have a list of a dozen or so new applicants for auditioning in September; three joined us, Kate Poole (S2), Sue Billett (A2) and James McConnachie (T1) – welcome! Our membership now stands at 122 and new members are welcome. The next auditions are on Tuesday 9 January 2007.

Edward Hepper, Secretary

HILARY LYSTYN JONES

Congratulations to HILARY LYSTYN JONES (our Hill!). It was announced in the Church Times (23.06.06) that Hilary - described as a Singing Coach - is to become an Honorary Member of the Guild of Church Musicians (Hon. GCM) in recognition of her work. The Archbishop of Canterbury will present the award at Lambeth Palace during a special Choral Evensong on November 6th. A fellow recipient on the same day will be former Archbishop Desmond Tutu who is to be awarded an Honorary Fellowship of the Guild.

Aren't we lucky to be able to work with such people as Hilary? Think about it as you roll your tongue around your mouth in preparation for this term's work!

Sheila Redstone

Looking Forward

Andy Lumsden, our Conductor, writes:

We look forward this term to two concerts - firstly the Candlelight Concert, with Mendelssohn's *Hymn of Praise*, Parry's *Blest Pair of Sirens* and *I was Glad*, and Elgar's *Give Unto the Lord*. An exciting programme which I hope includes some church choir favourites, given a new twist with full orchestra. We are delighted that amongst the soloists will be Ali Hill, David and Hilary's daughter, whom many of you will have heard at this year's Festival Opening Concert singing Rutter's *Requiem* with the Bach Choir. She has a wonderful clear, pure voice and sings with great poise. Then at the **Christmas Concert** on 9th December we have Bach's *Magnificat*, which will definitely be one of my Desert Island Discs! It is a magnificent, brilliant piece. This will be complemented by Bach's *Wachet Auf* and *Handel's Utrecht Te Deum*, and Florilegium will entertain us with Correlli's festive *Christmas Concerto*.

Then of course in **March**, we have guest conductor, Marin Alsop, and will perform Brahms' *German Requiem* under her direction. We are very fortunate to have the

opportunity to work with a conductor of her calibre.

This coming summer (2007), we have two concerts, as we have been invited to perform for the Opening concert of the Winchester Festival, and the work will be Walton's *Belshazzar's Feast*, which as many of you will know is very exciting, with a huge orchestra including two brass bands. We may have to pass on the brass bands (they are optional) but I am hoping that we will really be able to pull this off. Before that, on June 23rd, we will be singing Handel's *Zadok the Priest*, Vivaldi's *Gloria*, Handel's *Chandos Anthem No 8* and the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra will entertain us with Bach's *Suite No 4*.

A Very 'Winchester'

Picnic

There were just eight of us Wayns in the end who joined Romsey Choral Society and a few from the Portsmouth Society as well to sing at the annual **Music in the Air** in Middle Wallop. It is a spectacular event, with thousands in the audience, and as Rebekah Spanner (A2) and I were determined, a great opportunity for a proper 'Winchester' picnic. I was to fully understand the meaning of this only when we met up with four friends from our local church who we had invited along and with whom we were to share our provender.

Out came the lacy tablecloth, the long table, the proper cutlery, the game pie, the coronation chicken, four types of salad, five puddings, and all finished off with a posy of flowers in a vase! We also had three different wines, but as we had to try and sing quite a lot of challenging stuff, including the first piece from the *Armed Man* and a Rutter arrangement of *When the Saints come Marching In* which finished on a top C semibreve for the top soprs, we had to hold back on the wine!

The weather for once was pretty kind - we had sunshine for the first hour or so. But then as the evening wore on it clouded over and ended on a very grey drizzly note. We missed the fireworks as we were singing, but we had a few opportunities to enjoy the aerial acrobatics between numbers.

We had a great evening all in all, and heartily recommend it for future years - but

only of course with a proper picnic!
Jane Rutter S1

Waynflete Obit

John Lunt (B2) writes:

Many thanks to all those who came to sing Evensong in the Cathedral on August 11th for the Waynflete Obit, when the death of Bishop William of Waynflete is remembered. With a choir of almost 40, it was a good and confident sound. It is not always easy to find music which can be brought up to a good standard in just one rehearsal, yet provides something new without being too daunting. The anthem by Alwyn Surplice had decidedly tricky moments for both choir and conductor (and organist!), with awkward rhythms and changes of speed, but it went very well in the service.

There is a convincing argument for choosing relatively simple music and doing it well, such as the Brewer *Magnificat* and *Nunc Dimittis*, but it would be a pity if the music were too bland, and without a hint of a challenge. It was a pleasure to have the usual 'crew' of John Davies at the organ, and the Rev John Cutter presiding.

There was an inadvertent (I hope) diversion as the choir processed to the east end of the Cathedral. The virger stopped by the Lady Chapel and turned, to find the serried ranks of the sopranos, in full flood with the descant to 'Glorious things', continuing ever onward. The virger had to take several hasty steps backwards to avoid a collision, but no harm was done.

Thanks are very much due to Bishop Michael and Lou for their hospitality after the service. We enjoyed the lovely surroundings of the Wolvesey gardens for our picnics, and the standard of the subsequent serenade was rather better than last year!

and Edward Hepper reflected in a lighter vein, with apologies to AA Milne:

We watched for
Our cue, in
The transept
On Friday,
Bishop, Choir and Clergy

Assembled there in prayer.
The Canon was alert, and
He looked to the Cantor
Who warned the Conductor.
Who simply gave a wink to
To the Choir's
Steady Bass who then took
A stride
To the organ stair,

He signalled in
The gloom to
The figure at
The organ,
High up in the loft
As he played a gentle air.
The Organist inclined his head
And gave a
Little bow –
NOW!
So thus began the Antiphon –

A prayerful introduction
To Bishop Waynflete's Evensong,
With lilies white and fair.

Carols

This term would not be complete without carols and we have the opportunity to sing twice in different venues in December. On Sunday 10th December we will be singing at the Cathedral's new venture, the Christmas Market in the Close, between 2.00 and 3.00pm under Frances Griffiths; direction. On Saturday 16th December, we will return to the Brooks Shopping Centre between 10.30am and 12.00 noons, under Liz Pakenham's direction, in aid of the Leukaemia Research Fund. This is a popular event in a good acoustical environment – but brings warm shoes!

Christmas Party time

The traditional party after the Christmas concert (December 9th) will be revived in the Priors' Hall, by kind permission of the Dean, our President. Sarah Walker heads the organisation for his and tickets will be on sale at £5 per head (£3 if food contributed) from Jane Ratter on a first come first serve basis.