

Watford Philharmonic Society 81st Season

11th January 2016

Message from Marian

Welcome back everyone. I hope you all enjoyed the Christmas holiday and are now set for a prosperous and successful New Year. Our musical programme for the rest of the Season will provide us with some challenges, lots of variety and, I'm sure, a great deal of enjoyment.

Almost 40 choir members will make the trip to Birmingham to join the CBSO and Simon Halsey for a singing workshop on 24th of this month and next week we will be asking for a show of hands from those who would like to join our own **Come & Sing Day on Saturday, 18th June**, when we will rehearse Karl Jenkins' "The Armed Man" with our Conductor, Michael Cayton. June might seem some way ahead but the venue is already booked and the logistics of the day are well in hand. We are indebted to Judy for the time and energy she has already put in to ensure the success of the Workshop - what we need now, of course, is for as many of you as possible to sign on. Full details will be available shortly, and will also be circulated to several choral societies in the area with a welcome to join us on what should be an exciting and interesting day.

"The Armed Man" Workshop will be just one strand, albeit an important one, in an on-going programme of sessions supporting and encouraging voice development and choral balance, which will aid everyone's confidence and thereby improve performance and allow us to have even more enjoyment from what do.

We will end this season on a light note as we hold a 'Proms at the Colosseum' concert in late June. Then we will present a very special concert in October, the first half of which will be a commemoration of the Battle of the Somme featuring the Western Front Violin (on loan from the Imperial War Museum), and we will be performing Mozart's Requiem, which will provide particular pleasure for many - choir, orchestra and audience.

Please make sure you continue to read the Newsletter so that you don't miss out on the information that is available. I will not be singing for the next couple of terms as I need to give my voice a rest, but I will be at rehearsals and look forward to seeing you there.

Best wishes.
Marian

STOP PRESS FROM JUDY Come & Sing Creation with the CBSO in Birmingham, 24 January
There is ONE spare ticket available (@ £17.50) if anyone would like it. Please see Judy this evening.

CHANGES TO THE REHEARSAL SCHEDULE FOR THIS TERM

Please note the following important changes:

- Relocation of rehearsal on **January 25th** to **North Hall, Queens' School, Aldenham Road, Bushey WD23 2TY**. A map will be available next week for those who have not been there before.
- Reinstatement of the rehearsal for **February 15th**
- Extended rehearsals to take place in February for purposes of voice training by either **starting early, at 7pm** or **finishing late at 10pm**. Confirmation of dates to follow

REHEARSAL TRACKS AND YOUTUBE PERFORMANCE CLIPS FOR OUR NEXT CONCERT

Handel – Alexander's Feast Oratorio

- Choraline rehearsal CDs on **0845 304 5070**, www.choraline.com. We can obtain a small discount either by ordering in bulk, for which sign-up lists will be available next week, or you can get an individual discount if you order one for yourself, telling them you are a member of the Watford Phil
- Online rehearsal tracks are on <http://www.learnchoralmusic.co.uk>

- YouTube clip of a full performance by John Eliot Gardiner with the Monteverdi Choir and English Baroque Orchestra on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CSjbrMolmCE>

'COME AND SING' EVENTS
AND OTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2015/2016

DATE	EVENT	NOTES
Saturday 23 January 2016	LSO Choral Singing Day Elgar 'Gerontius' with Simon Halsey	LSO, St Lukes Old Street EC1V http://lso.co.uk/lso-discovery/discover-singing/singing-days
Sunday 24 January 2016	CBSO Singday Haydn 'The Creation' with Simon Halsey	Please would all participants collect an individually named envelope from Judy's table this evening.
6 February 2016	Wooburn Singers Come & Sing Brahms 'Ein deutsches Requiem'	Dr Challoners High School, Little Chalfont HP7 9QB www.wooburnsingers.org.uk
27 February 2016	Come & Sing Bach, St John Passion The Chiltern Choir, with Michael	Christ Church, Chorleywood tickets@chilternchoir.org.uk Further details at www.chilternchoir.org.uk
Sunday 6 March 2016	LSO Choral Singing Day Beethoven, Choral Symphony with Simon Halsey	LSO, St Lukes, Old Street, EC 1V http://lso.co.uk/lso-discovery/discover-singing/singing-days
Saturday 23 April 2016	WPS Spring Concert	
Sunday 24 April 2016	Brandenburg Festival Come & Sing Mozart Requiem	St Paul's Church, Covent Garden www.brandenburg.org.uk/festival
Saturday 7 May 2016	The Bach Choir Come & Sing Bach's B minor Mass, with David Hill	St Sepulchre's Church, Holborn www.thebachchoir.org.uk/concerts/come-and-sing-mass-in-b-minor

Our own concert plans include the Mozart Requiem (October 2016) and the Bach B minor Mass (Autumn 2017). Participating in the two 'Come & Sing' workshops on these works, listed above, will provide a great opportunity to familiarise yourself with them ahead of our rehearsals. Well worth signing up!

An early announcement of our open 'Come & Sing' workshop this year!

Saturday 18th June, 2016
Karl Jenkins, *The Armed Man*
The Arena, Bushey Academy

This is intended in part as a fund-raising event, and will be open to singers from other choirs. We hope you will support it, and encourage 'first-timers' as well as experienced singers amongst your family and friends to join in.

Further details will be available soon.