

Watford Philharmonic Society - Notices 11th November 2019

LAST WEEK'S CONCERT. A MESSAGE FROM EL PRESIDENTE. "Dear singers and players, Very well done on Sunday last week. I had to attend the rehearsal rather than the concert as I had another engagement in the evening. I must say though that I rather preferred being there in the afternoon. It was good to witness Michael's warm and encouraging relationship with you all and I admired the way he timed the rehearsal and attacked those sections that needed extra work. It was also nice to have a chat with members during the break. I miss that at concerts of course. I might ask Michael if I can attend a rehearsal in the future rather than the concert.

I was surprised and delighted to witness your singing of the Cantique from memory. What a super idea. You looked composed and sounded louder than when you are reading from copies of course. By the way, what a wonderful tenor soloist. He greeted me as if we knew each other although I couldn't remember where we had met. Maybe it was at a Friday Night is Music Night concert. My love to you all – Terry"

STOP PRESS ! HALF-DAY WORKSHOP ON SATURDAY 23rd NOVEMBER

At very short notice, and thanks to the availability of our professionals Michael and Rosemary, we have managed to arrange a pre-concert workshop for Saturday 23rd, time to be confirmed. The cost will be £5 per person and sign-up starts **TONIGHT!** As neither Bushey Arena nor the school are available (the latter because of a home game at Watford FC) we hope to confirm the venue as **North Hall, Queens' School, Aldenham Road, Bushey WD23 2TY.**

STOP PRESS ! GERRY O'BEIRNE, VOICE COACH

Many of you responding to the recent Members' Survey said that you would welcome more help with choral singing technique and voice development. We have made performance improvement an objective for the current season and have great pleasure in announcing the appointment of **Gerry O'Beirne** to join our professional team as voice coach this year. Starting after Christmas, he will take small groups during weekly rehearsals and work intensively on specific passages/techniques as agreed with Michael.

Gerry has a wealth of experience as both performer and teacher, encompassing a broad repertoire of musical genres. He has sung with many professional ensembles including the BBC Singers, the Gabrieli Consort and Terry's London Voices. He will be coming to our rehearsal next Monday and we very much look forward to introducing him to all of you.

"MIKADO". If you haven't already seen it, try to get to "The Mikado" at the (other) Coliseum. It stars our very own **Andrew Shore** as Pooh-Bah. He is a superb actor, as well as musician, and his diction is impeccable. It's the Jonathan Miller production, in a wonderful Art Deco setting, with choreography reminiscent of Busby Berkley. Lovely.

MESSAGES FROM LIBRARIANS JOHN AND SHEILA MALIN

You will need your copies of "100 CAROLS FOR CHOIRS" ed Willcocks and Rutter for the Christmas concert on Tuesday Dec 10th as well as some sheet music available tonight from the Librarians.

Several people have asked us about purchasing copies of the New Novello edition of Handel's *The Messiah*. If anyone else is interested please sign the list at the music table. **DEADLINE – MONDAY 18th NOVEMBER**

REHEARSAL RESOURCES

LAURIDSEN *O MAGNUM MYSTERIUM* - <https://soundcloud.com/whitehallchoir2/o-magnum-mysterium-alto-1/sets>

WILL TODD *MY LORD HAS COME*: You Tube clip of a recording by The Sixteen is lovely.

Further information on resources for our other new Christmas music to follow.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PUBLICITY COORDINATOR PAM – PLEASE HELP!

Your Society Needs You!

The Programme for *A Christmas Feast* is now in production and we need to bolster the Society's funds by obtaining as many advertisements as we can. Last Season we earned nearly £2,000, but so far I am already £500 down as we have lost a few ads. **Everyone** uses potential advertisers in their daily life, so please approach one of them and ask them to support us and benefit their business.

Rates: Business card multi-ad page: £25 per programme, £80 per season (x4 concerts); $\frac{1}{2}$ page: £60 per programme, £200 per season (x4 concerts); full page: £120 per programme, £400 per season (x4 concerts). My contact details are 01923 286930, pam@warrenhouse.me.uk