



Watford Philharmonic Society - Notices 6th January 2020

We wish our members peace, joy and prosperity for 2020

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE ABOUT REFUNDS FROM OUR TREASURER AND TICKET LADIES

We are planning to issue cheque refunds for the “non”- Christmas concert on the 13th January at the ticket table.

TWO MESSAGES FROM LIBRARIANS JOHN AND SHEILA MALIN

Please collect your copy of *The Messiah* (the new Novello version) from our Librarians as soon as you arrive so we can start rehearsal on time. They also ask if those few members who have not yet returned the library-loan Christmas music please do so at their earliest convenience.

VOICE COACH – GERRY O’BEIRNE

We welcome our new Voice Coach, Gerry O’Beirne, this evening to check out logistics. More details of a timetable for voice training will be given in the next couple of weeks or so. It will take place in the first classroom on the left on the long corridor near the ramp.

REHEARSAL RESOURCES

Steve Crocker will upload rehearsal tracks for *The Messiah* onto <https://watfordphilharmonic.co.uk/> as soon as we know which sections we are singing. In addition to the other resources listed on our website there are tracks for all four voice parts sung by professionals on a relatively new website - ChordPerfect: <https://www.chordperfect.com/george-handel/> .

A MESSAGE FROM OUR VICE-CHAIRMAN, JUDY

APPEAL FOR HELPERS

We are always delighted to welcome additions to established teams, especially as new tasks arise – and inevitably on occasions we also need to find replacements.

Most of our current helpers will say that becoming more involved with the organisation adds significantly to the enjoyment of being a member of the Society. Your help and expertise may well be useful in several ways, some of which require only a minimal commitment of time.

This term, we are launching a big recruitment drive to help better equip ourselves for the future. We urge anyone with an interest in contributing more to the work of the Society to complete the form being circulated this evening. For further information about what’s required, please see its reverse side.

JONATHAN DOVE “THERE WAS A CHILD”. Tim Venner writes “If you would like a chance to hear this work in its entirety, and have friends in Cheshire with whom you could stay, it is being performed on Saturday 4th April in Macclesfield by the King Edwards Music Society. Six of us have already bought tickets from <https://kems.yapsody.com/>. Apparently they sang it a few years ago, and enjoyed it so much they asked if they could do it again





MAGNIFICENT MESSIAH!

Tonight we start work on one of the most popular and most frequently performed works in the history of great choral music, offering a truly inspirational experience for musicians and audiences alike. The Society first undertook this stupendous work in 1941: now, almost 80 years on, by helping us to promote our 2020 concert as vigorously as possible you can make it a reprise to celebrate.

An audience of 600+ is by no means out of reach if we can enthuse family and friends to share it with us.

To generate and maintain additional interest throughout the rehearsal period, we will be introducing a few 'lollipops' along the way. The first of these is a call for you to share your

1. MESSIAH MEMORIES.

We'd like to collate some of **your personal recollections** of performing in or listening to *Messiah* – with WPS or any other choir. How many times have you sung it? Do you recall a particularly uplifting (or embarrassing!) moment? Do you remember it from school days? When did you first encounter the *Hallelujah Chorus*? Who were the soloists? Were **you** a budding Isobel Bailey singing the soprano solo *I know that my Redeemer liveth* or mezzo Janet Baker in *O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion*?

Please share your memories for us to use in our pre-concert publicity – just two or three sentences will do very nicely! There are some A5 sheets on the table at the back of the hall for you to fill in and leave for Judy to collect or – preferably – you can email her at judy@newtondavies.plus.com

2. MESSIAH MISCELLANY

The second 'lollipop' starts tonight! Each week, we will be posting a Messiah-related question – totalling 15 in all. Keep a note of your answers and at the end of the rehearsal period you can enter a competition by submitting them and paying £1.00 to **win one of 3 prizes** (a draw will determine the winners if scores are tied).

Here is your starter for one!

Messiah Miscellany week 1	
<p>Georg Friedrich Händel, born 23 February 1685 in Halle (Germany); died 14 April 1759 in London.</p> <p>Q. Two other famous composers were born in the same year as Handel. Who are they?</p>	<p>A.</p>
Just 15 weeks to sell 600 tickets!	

3. COME & SING MESSIAH! A one-off opportunity to sing with the excellent **Hertfordshire Chorus!** Wednesday 15th January, 7.30 to 10.00 pm at Stanborough School, Lemsford Lane, Welwyn Garden City AL8 6YR. **The event is free, but you will need to register here:**

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/hertfordshirechorus>