

WATFORD PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY – Notices 3rd Feb. 2020

ADVERTISEMENTS IN OUR CONCERT PROGRAMME.

Please help! We need to get as much revenue in for Messiah programme as possible to make up for our lost income at Christmas. We had to refund our advertisers as the concert was cancelled. So, you know the form - please be brave and ask your local butcher, baker, hairdresser, cafe pub or restaurants if they would take an ad for the remaining concerts this season.

Special prices per concert: £100 full page. £60 ½ page. £25 ¼ business card size.

Get me the contact and I will do the rest. My details are: pam@warrenhouse.me.uk 01923 286930
I need copy by Monday 17th February to enable layout to be confirmed.

Thank you very much. Pam Allanson

REHEARSAL SCHEDULES A few hard copies are available, (back table) for those with no Internet access. Also available on the website.

REHEARSAL RESOURCES Available on website <https://watfordphilharmonic.co.uk>
Also available on Cyberbass, ChordPerfect (<https://www.chordperfect.com/george-handel>)

HAVE YOU CHECKED THE WEBSITE RECENTLY ? www.watfordphilharmonic.co.uk

The lovely concert programmes started by Alan Bannister in 2011 have now been uploaded by our IT wizard, Tim Pettigrew, in page-turning format. Click on the **History** link on the home page and scroll right down to **WPS Programme Archive** on the **Background Story** page. Pam has more than maintained the high standard set by Alan and her programmes will also be uploaded to the website in due course.

TIM VENNER. A number of kind friends have enquired why Tim appears to be boycotting “Messiah” rehearsals. He has been diagnosed with MTD (Muscle Tension Dysphonia) - nothing sinister, just general wear and tear of the vocal chords, resulting in hoarseness. The ENT consultant has prescribed several months of NO singing, NO shouting, No whispering, NO alcohol, and NO caffeine. Tim says he is managing the first three quite well, and looks forward to being in the audience.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 1. Come & Sing Haydn’s *Stabat Mater*** with the English Baroque Choir, 8th February 2020, 10.00am, St John’s Waterloo, London SE1 8TY www.ebc.org.uk/singing-days
- 2. Come & Sing *The Armed Man*** with Harpenden Choral Society, Saturday 8th February 2020, 1.00pm, High Street Methodist Church, Harpenden AL5 2RU www.harpendenchoralsociety.org
- 3. Come & Sing Mozart *Requiem*** in aid of the Hospice of St Francis. Saturday 7th March 2020, 9.30am, St Mary’s Church, Church Street, Chesham HP5 1HY. Contact margyaparker@aol.com 01494778027 to book. The Mozart Requiem is being considered for our own October 2020 concert, so this would be a good opportunity to re/acquaint yourself with this lovely work.

Messiah Miscellany

Here is the 5th of 15 questions in our Messiah related quiz. All 15 will appear just before the concert and prizes will be awarded very soon after. Entry fee of £1.00 will help swell WPS coffers.

Messiah Miscellany week 5	
 <p>The first London performance of <i>Messiah</i> was given in March 1743 at Covent Garden, attended by King George the Second.</p> <p>Q. Apocryphally, what tradition began on that occasion – and why?</p>	A.
<p>4 fabulous soloists and 1 superb guest timpanist lined up for OUR performance on 25th April – see our website for details. Your friends won't want to miss this concert!</p>	

Messiah Memories

1. Roger Prangnell (Tenor) writes:

'I first sang *Messiah* three years after joining WPS when the Society performed it at Watford Town Hall in 1972. Only two months later, on my 33rd birthday, I joined a contingent from WPS as one of 13 similar choirs performing it for the Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund for Children. I had been to the Proms before, but the first time you find your way up all those back stairs to emerge in the choir stalls is an unforgettable experience. Luckily, Handel wrote an Overture so that one can take in the whole scene, including the vast audience, before the tenor soloist stands to deliver the thrilling opening bars in *Comfort ye, my People*. Even now, a tingle runs down my spine when I hear them.'

Roger is one of our longest serving members. There will surely be more spine-tingling moments for him in our forthcoming concert.

2. Alison Bishop (Soprano) writes:

'I was about 4 years old when I first heard part of *Messiah*. My mother sang with Leighton Buzzard Festival Singers and took me along to their Christmas concert afternoon rehearsal, where they sang *For unto us a Child is born* and it made quite an impression on me. I heard the full work as a teenager, which spurred me on to join the Choral & Orchestral Society at Bangor University when they were going to perform it in 1971. The warm-up before the performance was led by the Professor of Music, William Matthias.'

We have included a couple of pieces by William Matthias in our own Christmas programmes recently – great stuff!

*More **Messiah Memories** next week. A few more would be nice – can we keep them going right up to the concert?*