

WATFORD PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY – Notices 17th February 2020

REHEARSAL RESOURCES. Available on website <https://watfordphilharmonic.co.uk>

Also available on Cyberbass, ChordPerfect (<https://www.chordperfect.com/george-handel>)

'A NIGHT AT THE OPERA' - Search for a Narrator.

The concert in June will be "A Night at the Opera" and we are looking for a Narrator to set the scene for each item and involve the audience in the dramatic situation. Voice, personality, motivation are needed! This is a key role for this event. If you are interested, can you email Graham Wheeler (grahamwheeler@btinternet.com)? We'll have a get-together to explain the concert and the role of the Narrator. After that auditions will be arranged.

WPS dates for your diary 2020/2021


Date	Event	Venue
Saturday 25 th April 2020 7.30pm	Concert – Messiah	Colosseum
Saturday 13 th June 2020 10.00am to 4.00pm (approx)	Pre-concert Workshop	St Luke's Church, Langley Road, Watford
Saturday 27 th June 2020 7.30pm	Concert – A Night at the Opera	Colosseum
Wednesday 28 th October 2020 7.30pm	Concert – Mozart: Requiem; Ave Verum Corpus; Jupiter Symphony	Colosseum
Wednesday 16 th December 2020 7.00pm	Christmas Concert	Colosseum
Sunday 7 th March 2021 (time tbc)	Concert <i>Sing Up Spring</i> (working title)	Colosseum
Notes		
1. Summer 2021 – concert date, venue and programme to be confirmed. Colosseum unavailable. 2. If changes to other dates, venues or programmes are required they will be announced as early as possible. 3. Generally, Saturday Workshops will be arranged ahead of all concerts. Dates and details will be announced when available.		

Ticket Sales Technology

We are now able to take card payments for tickets purchased from Den and Gaynor at rehearsals. Let's see lots of people making good use of this new facility!

Messiah Miscellany

Nearly half way through our Messiah Miscellany Quiz! You can remind yourself of previous questions by referring to past copies of the weekly Newsletter, now posted on our website. All 15 questions will be circulated again just before the concert and prizes awarded very soon after. Entry fee of £1.00 will help swell WPS coffers.

Messiah Miscellany week 7	
 <p>Q. <i>Messiah</i> was originally scored for strings, trumpets and drums. Which 2 instruments were the first to be added in later revisions?</p>	A.
<p>The well-known solo trumpet passage features alongside our bass soloist Geoff Williams in spine tingling <i>The Trumpet shall Sound</i>. Other soloists are Emily Rowley-Jones (soprano); Helen Stanley (mezzo) and Nick Allen (tenor). Check them all out on our website and encourage your family and friends to come and hear them on 25th April.</p>	

Messiah Memories

This week's contributors describe performances involving members of their own families.

1. Kay Leyshon (alto) writes:

As a boy and as a young man, my father would have sung *Messiah* many times with the church choir – as they did in those days!

During WW2 he was in North Africa and whilst in Egypt he was able to go and sing in a performance of *Messiah*. As a light baritone, he decided to join the tenors but by the interval the high notes had become a bit of a strain so, in the second half, he retreated to the bass section.

Could this have been an international forerunner of the very popular Come & Sing Messiah events regularly offered by choral societies nowadays?

2. Keith Bevis (bass) writes:

I remember going to hear my wife sing *Messiah* at the Ally Pally in the 1970s. World-famous violinist Yehudi Menuhin was conducting a choir of a thousand voices, drawn from choir members throughout the country.

Today's equivalent might well be the Really Big Chorus Scratch Messiah which takes place annually in the Royal Albert Hall, usually attracting well over 2,000 singers. This year's event will take place on 15th November – see www.trbc.co.uk for details.