

WATFORD PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY – Notices 24th February 2020

Helping to run our Society

Sincere thanks to everyone who responded to our recent call for help in running the many activities which underpin the organisation of our Society. There is certainly no shortage of goodwill, especially considering what busy lives many people lead.

We've had lots of offers to help on an ad hoc basis – in particular, supporting our pre-concert workshops, rehearsals and concert management. We also feel a bit more confident of future cover for ticket sales and managing pre-concert workshops, should we need to find it.

The outstanding area where help is urgently needed is **Publicity & Marketing**. Pam has designed and produced our promotional material and concert programmes for 5 years now and – for the time being – will continue to do so. However, everyone will know that the way organisations have to promote themselves has changed and WPS needs to adapt as well. The job has become far too large for one person alone. **It is essential that we recruit two people now who are prepared to take the lead in Promotion and Marketing**. One choir member has come forward, thankfully – but to have two people working together dedicated to these areas alone will make a considerable difference to raising our profile locally and could help to generate much-needed revenue to help counter the effect of recently disappointing ticket sales.

Could YOU be one of those people? Do you have a friend or family member who might be prepared to support us in this way? It may not need a huge investment of time – and activities can be managed flexibly to suit whoever takes them on.

If you can help, please talk to Judy or Pam as soon as possible (email judy@newtondavies.plus.com or pam@warrenhouse.me.uk if you prefer).

Raffle table this evening

Marvellous Val and Kay have a surfeit of items waiting to be included in the weekly raffle and are running out of garage space in which to accommodate them! **TONIGHT, FOR ONE WEEK ONLY** there will be an additional table with a selection of goodies for sale at **just £1.00 per item. EVERYONE LOVES A BARGAIN – DON'T MISS OUT!**

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

Future WPS dates for your diary 2020/2021

Date	Event	Venue
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

Messiah Miscellany

Build up your entry for our Messiah Miscellany Quiz with the chance of winning one of 3 intriguing prizes! All 15 questions will be circulated again before the concert and prizes awarded very soon after. Entry fee of £1.00 will help swell WPS coffers.

Messiah Miscellany week 8	
 <p>Q. To which London hospital did Handel leave a fair copy of <i>Messiah</i> in his Will, assuring it of considerable financial benefit?</p>	A.
We are extremely grateful to WPS Friend Nigel Markwick for making a very generous donation towards the cost of our 25 April concert in memory of his wife, Joan , who many of you will remember and who loved <i>Messiah</i> .	

Messiah Memories

Our first two contributors this week recall their schoolgirl experiences

1. Stephanie Luxford (soprano) writes:

'My initiation into the joys of singing *Messiah* occurred when my school choir participated in an Ernest Read concert with massed girls' choirs in the Royal Festival Hall. I was hooked!'

2. Sarah Lockwood (alto) writes:

'*Messiah* was the first classical work I ever sang – in Guildford Cathedral with my school choir to celebrate the Millennium. Our concert this April will be the first time I've sung the work in full since then, and I'm now having to learn the alto part instead of the soprano. I'm really looking forward to performing it again – using my score from the year 2000.'

Sarah's score bears the scars of her Millennium performance! How many of you recall exchanging notes with your friends by writing inside the covers of your scores during rehearsal?!

And another of our members recalls Messiah's strong European ties in a WPS trip to Germany.

3. Janet Fanshawe (alto) writes:

'Visiting our twinned choir in Mainz, we sang the *Hallelujah Chorus* together in a small church outside the city. Our German hosts – who sang with us – said how moved they had been by the 'coming together' of our two nations in music. They reported that many members of the congregation had expressed similar sentiments.'