

WATFORD PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY – Notices 2nd March 2020

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

SETTING OUT CHAIRS – A PLEA FOR HELP

There is a small group of very dedicated ladies who set out about 150 chairs each Monday evening. It would be enormously helpful if more people could help with this task, as many hands make light work...

All you need to do is arrive a bit earlier and give a hand. Many thanks, Nikki

The layout **Sopranos and altos** – each 5 rows of 10 chairs

Basses – 2 rows of 12 chairs

Tenors - 2 rows of 9 chairs

JONATHAN DOVE VOCAL SCORE. Did you purchase your own score of “There was a Child” ? If so, please could Rosemary borrow it for a couple of weeks ? You will find her hiding behind the piano. Thank you !

MESSIAH MISCELLANY WEEK 9



Q. In 1857 a ‘Great Handel Festival’ was held, at which *Messiah* and other Handel oratorios were performed with a chorus of 2,000 singers and an orchestra of 500. Where did the festival take place?

A.

This performance also attracted a huge audience. Can WE get anywhere near to 600 at the Colosseum on 25th April?

**IF EVERYONE SELLS 2 TICKETS, WE’D BE HALF WAY THERE.
WHY NOT BUY THEM AS GIFTS FOR YOUR FRIENDS?**

Messiah Memories *Two contributors tell of rising to a challenge!*

1. Michaela von Britzke (tenor) writes:

‘I was still a very new member of WPS but **John Jefkins** was already established as my mentor and firm support when the choir was invited to sing *Messiah* in St Mary’s Church, Watford. I’d never sung most of the choruses, so my very musical visiting German friend and I decided to support my new mates’ efforts and swell the audience. To my amazement, John pulled me into the tenors’ rank and said, “You’ll sing!” - and so, despite my protestations, I did! It was both an act of friendship and misplaced trust - but with his sturdy voice in my ear and my trust in his absolute musicality sustaining me, I joined in and loved the experience - an unexpected gift.’

2. Tim Venner (bass) writes:

‘Many, many years ago, as a young **tenor**, I was asked by a friend to help out his local church choir with a performance of *Messiah*. They only had 3 other tenors, and at least half a dozen basses. I was very familiar with the tenor line, having sung it many times. After the afternoon rehearsal, the organist thanked me effusively, but asked if I could possibly sing **bass** in the evening performance instead of tenor, as the basses were really struggling! So I sight read the bass part in the concert. Fortunately, it was really just a question of singing the bass entries loudly which gave them the confidence to carry on!

We’re all missing hearing you sing the bass entries loudly this season, Tim!