



## FRIENDS NEWS

Issue 11 April 2020



### FROM THE CO- CHAIRS

Dear Friends

First and foremost we hope that you are all keeping well and staying safe. All else is secondary.

We cannot be sure as to when HCS will be able to get together again to rehearse and perform but as we and the HCS committee attempt to second-guess the Government's plans for easing the current lockdown it seems to us very likely that there will remain in place some restrictions.

The elements of each, in various permutations, would be continuing closure of venues, bans on mass gatherings, the definition of 'mass', the requirements for social distancing, the wearing of masks and a continuing age-related lockdown.

A key further element is that of uncertainty. We are trying to plan beyond possibly several phased stages of the release from lockdown. Who knows what the situation will be on 2<sup>nd</sup> September, when rehearsals are set to recommence, and to what extent it will differ from the position on 31<sup>st</sup> October, our scheduled concert. And what we will know about the likely situation on 31<sup>st</sup> October by 2<sup>nd</sup> September?

In the meantime we have a first, two firsts for you in fact. The choir is looking forward to joining Andrew in pre-recorded rehearsals and exercises from Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May onwards. And you too as Friends will be able to join with us! Details and instructions will be emailed to all of you.

We are missing our weekly rehearsals, we are missing the friendship that HCS brings. We know that this is temporary however, that we will all be back together before too long.

In the meantime, we hope that you will continue to feel part of the HCS family and if anyone is in need of any practical help or just a bit of socially-distanced company, please just do let us know.

With very best wishes  
Amy and Paul



### (HOPEFULLY) FUTURE CONCERT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Date	Venue	Work / notes
31 October 20	Royal Hall	Rossini – <i>Stabat Mater</i> and Puccini – <i>Messa di Gloria</i>
5 December 20	Harrogate Convention Centre	The Harrogate Christmas Concert
12 December 20	Royal Hall	Handel - <i>Messiah</i>
6 March 21	Royal Hall	Brahms – <i>Ave Maria, Alto Rhapsody and Ein Deutsches Requiem</i>
19 June 21	Royal Hall	Will Todd – <i>Mass in Blue</i> & Chilcott – <i>Little Jazz Mass</i>
26 June 21	Harrogate Convention Centre	Collaborative Gala Proms concert with HSO and other local singers - raising fund for the Harrogate Hospital Community Charity

## COMMITTEE REPORT

The following is a summary of items discussed by the Executive and full Committee since the last newsletter, being January 2020. The Committee meeting was held at the beginning of February and the Exec have had various virtual discussions since then (by email and using Zoom!) So please note that due to the pandemic some of the plans and ideas discussed are no longer possible. We do however have a committee meeting planned for early May, which may take place virtually, so as always if there is anything you think we should be discussing please let Ruth know.

### Admin matters

The Adult Safeguarding had its annual review, no changes needed. The possibility of reinstating the role of minutes secretary was discussed, this would not necessarily be a trustee role but could be very helpful. GW noted that all our young Halcyon singers are now old enough to fall outside the age range where we need to apply for a BOPA for concerts.

### Recent events

The Mens Open Rehearsal went well and was attended by twenty or so choir members and a good number of potential new singers. PJ hoped that it would result in at least three or four new members and he hoped to repeat the event again.

On a related membership matter he reported that 23 people had expressed an interest in Francis' singing teaching sessions which were currently being set up. (noting that sadly these are now in abeyance)

### Finance

Membership fee income is stable. GW noted that the projected loss for the Elgar concert was about £3,600, Messiah had made a profit. She explained that she splits rehearsal (and linked) costs according to how many rehearsals there are per concert. She was concerned about the possible losses for the Rossini and Puccini concert which are currently projected to be in the region of £6750 even taking into account all our sponsorship. If she were to split rehearsal costs equally across all concerts - for this season three ways instead of the normal four due to the Proms - this would improve the situation for R&P but would eliminate the Messiah profit. At the end of the season the estimated total income for concerts will be £17,300 (this includes subs, ticket sales, sponsorship etc) and expenditure about £24,000 (including rehearsal costs, venue hire, sundries, music hire, soloists, orchestras etc). As a result she will have to draw down more money from our savings account. This time last year there was £50k, we currently have £40k. It is imperative to have some money in the bank so that early in the season we can pay bills in advance of all the subs money coming in. We are getting to a point where this might be in danger. MD suggested that this information must be shared with the choir. They are enjoying the singing but we must engage with them to get tickets sold.

The final accounts for 2018-19 have almost been completed by Barkers who are doing the final checks and an EGM will need to be arranged so the choir can approve them

### Future developments

The trip to Montecatini in Italy is likely to take place in either May or October 2021. It was hoped to link the publicity for the R&P concert to our twin town Montecatini, officials from there will be invited to the concert. KR is waiting for more information from Montecatini so plans for the trip can be notified to the choir.

MD has very kindly agreed to delay her retirement to Christmas so that the Christmas concert can go ahead, she will however be recruiting help from suitable qualified choir members to work with the schools on preparation work. The Choir party and celebration will therefore be delayed until January 2021.

## COMMITTEE REPORT (CONTINUED)

### Other Matters

Following a discussion about music in Harrogate generally it was suggested we could consider taking our concerts out to more remote venues. GW thought it would be good to have one of our main 4 concerts each year in a non-Harrogate venue.

## CONCERT BOOKING FOR TWO REARRANGED CONCERTS

Any tickets already purchased for the original concerts are valid for the new dates- the box office should by now have been in touch.

 **HARROGATE CHORAL SOCIETY**  
Andrew Padmore, Conductor

**ROSSINI  
STABAT MATER  
&  
PUCCINI  
MESSA DI GLORIA**

Manchester Camerata  
Sarah Power, Soprano  
Adriana Festeu, Mezzo  
Nicholas Watts, Tenor  
Stephen Gadd, Bass

**Royal Hall, Harrogate**

**NEW DATE**  
**31 October 2020, 7.30 pm**

**Tickets £15 to £20**

Students or IBA £5

Under 16s free when accompanied by an adult  
from Harrogate Box Office 01423 502116  
or online at [www.harrogatetheatre.co.uk](http://www.harrogatetheatre.co.uk)

[www.harrogatechoral.org.uk](http://www.harrogatechoral.org.uk) | Registered Charity 1384776 | [Twitter.com/HgateChoralSoc](https://twitter.com/HgateChoralSoc)

The Concert has been rearranged with a new date

Tickets for Rossini *Stabat Mater*  
& Puccini *Messa di Gloria*  
In the Royal Hall  
at 7.30pm on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020

are on sale from the Harrogate Box Office tel 01423 502116  
or online at

<https://www.harrogatetheatre.co.uk/whats-on/Rossini-and-Puccini>

or by contacting the HCS ticket team at  
[tickets@harrogatechoral.org.uk](mailto:tickets@harrogatechoral.org.uk)

This concert also has a new date

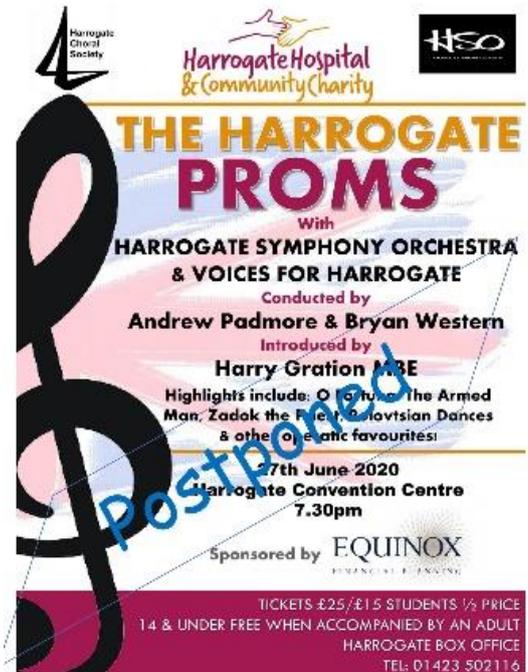
Tickets for The Harrogate Proms  
Special Fundraising Concert  
In Harrogate Convention Centre  
at 7.30pm on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2021

are on sale from the Harrogate Box Office tel 01423  
502116

or online at

<https://www.harrogatetheatre.co.uk/whats-on/The-Harrogate-Proms>

or by contacting the HCS ticket team  
at [tickets@harrogatechoral.org.uk](mailto:tickets@harrogatechoral.org.uk)



**THE HARROGATE PROMS**  
With  
**HARROGATE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA & VOICES FOR HARROGATE**  
Conducted by  
**Andrew Padmore & Bryan Western**  
Introduced by  
**Harry Gratton MBE**  
Highlights include: Overture to The Armistice, Zadok the Priest, Slavonic Dances & other Orchestral favourites!  
**27th June 2020**  
**Harrogate Convention Centre**  
**7.30pm**  
Sponsored by **EQUINOX**  
FINANCIAL PLANNING  
TICKETS £25/£15 STUDENTS 1/2 PRICE  
14 & UNDER FREE WHEN ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT  
HARROGATE BOX OFFICE  
TEL: 01423 502116

Ticket booking for the Christmas Concert and Messiah will be opened once the current situation is a little clearer

## FROM THE ARCHIVES

Normally we like to share reviews of recent concerts but as that is not currently possible some old newsletters, photos and press cuttings have been revisited for your entertainment! If needed more will appear in future editions but for starters here is the Committee from 1991 – 5 members are still singing in the choir



Back: Anne Wilkinson, Doreen Bissett, Richard Watts, Peter Garside, John Clayton, Derek Linfoot, Maurice Gamble, Diana Thomas, Jennifer Rawnsley  
Front: John Littlewood, Jenny Goodwin, John Gulley (conductor), Margaret Parker, Peter Thompson (Chairman)

Then a photo of the whole choir taken in St Wilfrids, also in 1991 – sorry, can't name everyone though there are quite a lot of people who are still singing with us! Hope you have fun naming people! If you want to identify anyone then please let Secretary Ruth know!



## VERDI REQUIEM, DECEMBER 1970

Quite a landmark event!



**At the end of the singing of Verdi's Requiem in the Royal Hall, Harrogate, on Saturday night, a capacity audience was cheering let alone applauding.**

Nothing quite like this has happened in living memory in Harrogate. A few years ago it would have been unthinkable that a local choral society could organise a performance of one of the greatest and certainly the most colourful of choral works ever written.

The recipe for success has been collaboration with another smallish choir, the Aireborough Choral Society, seized like Harrogate's with an ambition to break out of the routine popular works and both fortunate in finding a young conductor, Ian Linford, with altogether exceptional gifts.

Other items in the recipe have been a willingness to think big in terms of money by investing in a full-scale orchestra and soloists of national fame. The new image extended to new dresses for the sopranos and contraltos and some expensive staging which brought the entire performance in front of the stage curtain so that for the first time the awkward acoustics of the Royal Hall were beaten.

Even so, the Verdi Requiem is a big undertaking and all the trappings in the world would have been of little account had it not been for the thoroughness of the musical preparation and the technical competence of the choirs, the soloists, and the orchestra to respond to the magnificence of the music as interpreted by a conductor who knew what he wanted and how to get it.

Soloists were Iris Bourne, soprano; Oriel Sutherland, mezzo; Derek Blackwell, tenor, and John Noble, bass-baritone.

**PHOTOS TAKEN AT A RECEPTION HELD IN THE GEORGE IN NOVEMBER 1971 AFTER THE FIRST PERFORMANCE OF DREAM OF GERONTIUS**

Can you name anyone?







The last photo features our lovely Jenny - on the left - who has been a member for over 50 years and was Secretary for 15 of those, together with her sister and mother. She and her husband both still sing with HCS as do two of her daughters.

#### This Newsletter

If there is more you would like to read in this newsletter, or you would like to tell us a bit about yourself then do let us know by getting in touch with Carolyn, the Friends Secretary – email [friends@harrogatechoral.org.uk](mailto:friends@harrogatechoral.org.uk)