



FRIENDS NEWS

Issue 4 July 2018



FROM THE CHAIRMAN – RETIRING AND INTRODUCING THE NEW!

This will be my last note before I step down from the post of Chairman and I wish all the luck in the world to my successors (Amy and Paul pictured right).



It is exceptionally pleasing to look back over the last two years and remind myself of some fine music making – the Opera Gala night, the

St John Passion, Carmina Burana, Belshazzar’s Feast, the great Messiahs and above all the Elijah performance which heralded the start of our 70th anniversary celebrations. The latter of course continue with the Magic of Mozart evening on 20th October, which also marks our conductor-for-the-night’s personal milestone of thirty years as our President, and conclude with two Messiah performances. And there will also be a special event in November.

How many of you have read recently in the local press of the plans to floodlight the Cenotaph and the Royal Hall? This is a very worthwhile project and to launch the appeal we have been invited by the Royal Hall Restoration Trust to take part in a performance on 14th November in the Royal Hall which not only is the launch start, but also, given the date, will commemorate the ending of the Great War, celebrates the tenth year since the Royal Hall’s re-opening and is also one hundred years since the birth of Sir Hubert Parry, who conducted the opening concert of the Royal Hall (the Kursaal as it was then entitled) back in 1903. The programme will therefore be Parry-based and we are looking forward to being joined on the night by the choir of Exeter College, Oxford (the college that Parry himself attended) and a special guest in Edward Fox as narrator.

I leave my post (but not the choir!), therefore, looking forward to being involved in our autumn series of concerts, starting with the Mozart evening (which includes the much-loved ‘Requiem’) then the Parry ‘I Was Glad’ event and concluding with the annual Messiah. None can be missed and I hope to see you there!

Peter Thompson

PLANNED CONCERT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Season	Date	Venue	Works
2018-2019	20 Oct 18	Royal Hall	The Magic of Mozart (incl ‘Requiem’) Conducted by Brian Kay
	15 Nov 18	Royal Hall	A Celebratory concert in partnership with the Royal Hall Restoration Trust
	7 Dec 18	St Aidans Leeds	Handel - Messiah
	8 Dec 18	Royal Hall	Handel – Messiah
	15 Dec 18	Harrogate Convention Centre	The Harrogate Christmas Concert
	23 March 19	Royal Hall	Haydn – Creation
	7 June 19	Ripon Cathedral	Faure – Requiem & Rutter – Feel the Spirit

SAYING GOODBYE TO A DEAR FRIEND (AND ACCOMPANIST)

On the 4th July we held an Open Rehearsal to encourage some new singers to come along and have a sing. We ended with a glass of wine and a chance to chat but before that Peter Thompson (Bass & HCS Chairman) said a few words, then Andrew Padmore (Music Director), Anne (Soprano), Bruce (Tenor) and Ruth (Alto) presented a few gifts to Beryl who has now retired after being our amazing accompanist for an amazing 44 years.

Chairman Peter saying a few words



Peter with Beryl



Andrew with a present in a bag



Beryl with the silver bonbon dish (which was in the bag)



Anne presenting the holiday vouchers



Beryl opening the vouchers (£500 worth!)



Lovely Beryl!



Bruce presenting some flowers



Beryl with the mystery present (sorry Ruth didn't make the photo!)



And here is what it was ... Beryl, 44 years



She seemed to like it!



Beryl herself had a few words



Then we all sang "You'll never walk alone"



Behind the piano one last time



Applause for all



At the social – Catriona and Bridget



Andrew with Geoff and Kate



Happy HCS – Sally, Paul, Judith and Anna



COMMITTEE REPORT

The following is a summary of items discussed at the meeting held on 21 May 2018 (our next meeting is on 24th September – if there is anything you think we should be discussing please let Ruth know)

Fees and Subs for the new season

New fees for the new season were agreed and it was also agreed that we should once again freeze membership fees as we don't want to put people off joining. It was noted though that there will almost certainly need to be a small increase for the 2019-20 season. Friends subs remain the same.

Concert Planning

The main point of discussion was the concert in November in conjunction with the Royal Hall Restoration Trust. The focus of this has now changed and it will launch a fundraising drive to raise monies to floodlight the Cenotaph and the Royal Hall. It will also note the anniversary of the end of WW1 and the tenth anniversary since the Royal Hall re-opened – the latter by means of the music programme which will include some items performed at the original opening concert.

We will be rehearsing the music for this concert alongside the music for the Mozart concert from mid June and the librarian team have worked hard at finding the two most obscure pieces!!

Open Rehearsal

This will take place on 4th July and a recruitment campaign aimed at tenors and basses has been started using facebook.

Policies etc on Website

We continue to keep the society's policies up to date on the members page of the website – and it has now been made more accessible with a tab "members" on the top line of the home page which is www.harrogatechoral.org.uk.

Concert Management

Paul has agreed to take on the role of Concert Manager for the Nightingale concert so that experience of this role can be shared (as at present Ruth is the only person who knows the ropes!)

AGM

The paperwork for the AGM was agreed, also a way forward for future Committee meetings. Those due a Long Service Award at the AGM were noted.



STOP PRESS

As you now know we had to postpone the AGM which was due to be held on 11th July due to the football semi final meaning that so many members had sent their apologies in advance we did not expect there would be a quorum at the meeting, and we didn't want people to attend only to be sent home as our Constitution does now allow the meeting to start unless there is a quorum present.

The AGM will now take place at 8.45 pm on 5th September. The choir rehearsal that evening will start at 7.30 as normal but we will only sing for an hour then have a short break to allow tables to be set up at the front of the room, and for members and friends who are attending to get a glass of wine and use the facilities. The Agenda is the same as it was so if you have already printed a copy all you need to do is amend the date! It will however be sent out again in mid August.

REVIEW OF “A NIGHTINGALE SANG”

Just in case you missed the review in the paper here it is – accompanied by a photo of us singing away (note the mixed red and blue – we were actually in stripes in line with the American theme of the concert !)



The final concert in the 2017-18 season for Harrogate Choral Society proved to be a great success. The venue was the church of St Wilfrid in Harrogate. With its impressive interior and splendid acoustics, St Wilfrid's was filled to capacity by a very appreciative audience to greet the Society under the direction of its Conductor Andrew Padmore, with accompanist Thomas Moore, Director of Music and Master of the Choristers at Wakefield Cathedral, soloist Aofie O'Connell, Soprano and compere, Marilynne Davies.

In recognition of Leonard Bernstein's 100 Anniversary of his birth, the concert programme was all-American themed and began with a stirring rendition of America (My Country tis of Thee), the original American National Anthem to the tune of our own National Anthem. This was followed by Charles Ives Variations on America brilliantly played on the organ by Thomas Moore who brought out much of the humour of this composition. The main item in the first half was Bernstein's Chichester Psalms, the Choir singing very confidently in Hebrew and Thomas Moore playing the tricky accompaniment with consummate ease. The treble solo was beautifully sung by young Charlie Trueman with an excellent quality that flowed like musical mist around and within the nave of the church.

The second half featured the Choir in a rather lighter vein. With excellent performances of Samuel Barber's Agnus Dei, Whitacre's Seal Lullaby and O Magnum Mysterium by Lauridsen as well as Lullaby of Birdland. A Nightingale Sang was nicely sung by the group, Beati, but the star of this half was undoubtedly the guest Soprano Aofie O'Connell who delighted us with a selection of songs from musicals including the amazingly virtuosic Glitter and be Gay from Bernstein's musical, Candide.

Thank you to Andrew Padmore and all for this splendid evening of music.

Adrian Selway

HCS CONTINUING TO HELP OTHERS

The charity for the final concert of the 2017-18 season was Crossroads - in line with our Anniversary pledge – made at our committee meeting in July - to pass on some of our good fortune and offer support to some local charities by donating £1 for each ticket sold to a charity per concert and also working with them on publicity to help raise awareness of what they do for the local community.

Each charity was also able to hold a bucket collection at the end of their concert and use the interval to raise awareness / hold tombolas etc etc. For the final concert of the season Crossroads also agreed to run the bar in the interval (and thus make a bit more money!) Crossroads is a locally based charity who provide home based, direct support services to unpaid carers and the people they care for. We were due to present a cheque for £250 to them at the start of the AGM but that will now take place on 5th September.

The total donated to the four charities during the 2017-18 season was £1750!

We are also delighted to announce that the charities for the 2018-19 season will be The Mayors Charity , ABF The Soldiers Charity for the performance of Creation in the Royal Hall in March 2019, Supporting Older People (Messiah in December 2018), Disability Action Yorkshire (October 2018) and Dementia Forward (June 2019).

Subs Due

Just a quick reminder that Subscriptions for the 2018-19 season are due immediately after the AGM, as this has been delayed you can pay early – our Treasurer Gill will have no objections!!

The amounts due are unchanged from last year but if in doubt please contact Treasurer Gill for more information treasurer@harrogatechoral.org.uk

Information about how to pay online can be found on the members page of the website

This Newsletter

If there is more you would like to read in the newsletter then do let us know by getting in touch with Carolyn the Friends Secretary – email friends@harrogatechoral.org.uk Perhaps a Friend might even like to take over as editor!

Concert Booking for Mozart and Messiah

Just a quick note to let you know that tickets are available now for the Mozart concert on 20th October and Messiah in Harrogate on 8th December. The box office for both these concerts has opened to the public (www.harrogatetheatre.co.uk) - but we have kept back the seats which our excellent ticket sales team know members and friends prefer.

Booking forms have been sent out already or you can just email tickets@harrogatechoral.org.uk for your bookings.

Norman also has tickets for the Messiah concert in Leeds at St Aidans on 7th December, home to the magnificent Brangwyn Mosaics, these will only be sold via Norman or on the door so do get in touch.