



# FRIENDS NEWS

Issue 5 November 2018



## FROM THE CO- CHAIRS



It's been an exciting season so far.

Our Mozart concert in October received a good deal of acclaim. We enjoyed renewing our friendship with Brian Kay and the choir responded very well to his inimitable direction.

Choir membership is growing. We now number over 130 members. Over 90% of us sang in our last concert, the highest proportion for almost ten years.

Recruitment remains a priority. We are receiving new membership enquiries at a rate of one every fortnight, on average. These are almost all from Sopranos and Altos.

We must recruit more men, and in particular younger men. An open rehearsal for Tenors and Basses is being held early next year. It will be publicised widely and we are hopeful that prospective members will be enticed into coming along by a combination of a lunchtime buffet, a bar and a relatively short singing session on a Saturday, commencing late morning. Fingers crossed.

Tickets for this year's Messiah are selling very well indeed. Be sure to buy your own early in order to avoid disappointment. Our Parry concert in mid-November is proving to be rather harder to market, but it will be we think a very moving occasion, and as always we will very grateful for your support.

We are both very much aware of the wider HCS family, of which you are all members, and in the same way that we are keen to learn from more experienced HCS Members, we will be very happy always to hear from, and to consider the views of, former choristers and other HCS Friends.

Do please keep in touch, we would love to hear from you!

Thank you and Best Wishes  
Paul and Amy

## PLANNED CONCERT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Date	Venue	Work / notes
7 Dec 18	St Aidans Leeds	Handel – Messiah (space is available on the choir buses leaving Harrogate)
8 Dec 18	Royal Hall	Handel – Messiah With Manchester Camerata
15 Dec 18	Harrogate Convention Centre	The Harrogate Christmas Concert with HSO and 300 primary children!
23 March 19	Royal Hall	Haydn – Creation
8 June 19	Ripon Cathedral	Faure – Requiem & Rutter – Feel the Spirit

## 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](mailto:friends@harrogatechoral.org.uk),  
Perhaps a Friend might even like to take over as editor!

## REPORT FROM THE AGM

The draft minutes - which are available on the Members page – tell you what was decided but as well as the normal business a few “nice” things happened! As one of his last jobs as Chairman Peter announced the making of four new Life Members - recognizing their service to the choir.

Christine (left in the photo) has 40 years membership of HCS plus 20 years on various committees and sub committees including being deputy librarian, and is still helping with various things. Nick (in the middle –obviously enjoying himself) was made a Life Member to acknowledge the huge financial contributions he has made to HCS in his 21 years as a Member. Anne (on the right of the photos) has been a member for 48 years and in the past served on the Committee for many years. The fourth Life Member was not at the AGM (but we will get a photo of him at some point) Bruce, who has been a member for 43 years and who spent 14 of those years as Librarian.



There were also six Long Service Certificates to present (for 25 years membership)

In the picture are (from left to right) Charles, Wendy, Louise, Bryan and Ruth. Rachel was not able to be at the AGM.

We elected new Co-Chairs Amy and Paul

Here they are pictured with (left to right) Music Director Andrew, Amy, Paul and our new Accompanist Tom



And finally we said thank you to Peter who joined HCS in 1976 and has spent 34 of his 42 years of Membership working on the Committee in one role or another, including 18 years as Chairman. In recognition of this it was agreed by all to make Peter a Vice President of HCS and Amy presented him with some gifts on behalf of all of HCS.



Thanks to Deputy Photographer Jill for the photos on this page.

## COMMITTEE REPORT

The following is a summary of items discussed at the meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2018 and a few items agreed by email discussion. Our next meeting is on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2019 and if there is anything you think we should be discussing please let Ruth know)

### Concert Planning

Dates for the 2019-2020 season are being finalised, as is the content of the programmes and will be announced soon! In respect of the current season, there are plans to perform Creation a second time in a smaller venue, on a Saturday either before or after the concert in the Royal Hall. This will fulfil one of the suggestions from the Member consultation that we perform a work we have learned more than once.

### Choir Trip

Ann and Chris are working on the finer detail which will take choir members to sing in Lincoln Cathedral on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2019 – more info will follow!

### Policies etc on Website

We continue to keep the society's policies up to date on the members page of the website – to view them all just go to the "members" tab on the top line of the home page, [www.harrogatechoral.org.uk](http://www.harrogatechoral.org.uk).

### Concert Management

Gill has taken on board most of the organisation for the Messiah in Leeds with a team of Leeds based helpers taking out publicity material to as many venues as possible. Ruth is continuing to be concert manager for all Royal Hall and HCC based concerts, and Amy is going to be concert manager for the Ripon concert. All concerts need someone to be stage manager – ie to get the choir safely on and off the relevant stage - and volunteers will be sought.

### Recruitment

Paul is working with Andrew to plan an Open Rehearsal just for men, to be held in a pub or similar with a buffet lunch provided. He hopes this will encourage some new tenors and basses to join us. The website has produced several new altos and sopranos but very few enquiries from gentlemen. This Open Rehearsal will be funded using some of the money donated from the Mayors Ball.

### Marketing and Publicity

We have had some excellent help from Kathy who is trying to get us greater coverage in the printed press. Members are encouraged to continue taking flyers out and about to as many places as possible and to use any work networks they have to spread the word about our concerts – ie work intranets etc.

### Sponsorship

We have submitted an application to the Bramall Trust for continued funding and are waiting to hear back from them. Nick has one or two other contacts which he will be following up.



## Subs Due

Just a quick reminder that if you have not yet paid your Subscriptions please could you do so as soon as possible as they should have been paid immediately after the AGM, which was held on 5th September.

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

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

## REVIEW OF “THE MAGIC OF MOZART”

Just in case you missed the review in the paper here it is – accompanied by a couple of photos taken by our fantastic photographer Ernesto



Harrogate Choral Society, together with the Manchester Camarata presented a fine evening of entertainment featuring music entirely by Mozart. This was a rather auspicious occasion as the Guest Conductor for the evening was Brian Kay who was celebrating his 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in his role as President of the Society. The concert supported the charity Disability Action Yorkshire whose aim is to facilitate solutions for disabled people whatever their aspirations might be and included, apart from the choral works two purely orchestral items one of which featured one of Mozart’s Horn Concertos with Ben Goldscheider as soloist on the French Horn.

The concert opened with a performance of the Divertimento in D major K136, a very bright and cheery work scored for strings alone and part of what are known as the Salzburg Symphonies. Brian Kay conducted with delicacy, coaxing gentle and persuasive tone from the Manchester Camarata sometimes, in the echo passages taking the tone just down to a whisper. This was a beautiful and homely performance of this delightful work.



There then followed the Missa Brevis K275, this being a rather less well-known work but very worthy of being included in this evenings programme. Here we were introduced to the fine quartet of soloists – Sarah Power, Soprano, Angharad Lyddon, Mezzo Soprano, Guy Elliott, Tenor and Jake Muffett, Baritone, who also sang the Intonations. The Choral Society sang with great clarity and the direction by Brian Kay was always gentle, encouraging engaging and carefully produced tone from his singers.



Ben Goldscheider, a prize-winning instrumentalist on the French Horn was introduced to the audience by the conductor and continued to give a superb rendering of Mozart's 4<sup>th</sup> Horn Concerto K495 accompanied with great sensitivity by the Manchester Camerata. Ben's playing was full of exquisite phrasing and carefully graded dynamics. Although in this concerto the orchestra also contains Ripieno Horns, Brian Kay kept a gentle but strict control over the orchestra dynamic such that they never intruded upon the solo in any way but blended beautifully with the orchestral tone.

Mozart's Requiem Mass K626 formed the whole of the second half of the concert. This famous and heartfelt work has been interpreted in many ways and the large and appreciative audience not only had the chance to hear some excellent choral singing with many examples of light and shade, together with clear and precise enunciation of the words and fine tuning but also wonderful singing from the four soloists. Jake Muffett's Tuba Mirum was full of warm broad tone with a lovely offering from the trombonist in the orchestra who later received a justified recognition from the conductor. The Recordare was especially well sung by the soloists. Angharad Lyddon's voice was just lovely, a perfect and complimentary essential to Sarah Power's delightful soprano offering while Guy Elliott completed the soloists with bright and superbly placed tone.

This was an excellent evening of musical entertainment and first class in all respects.

*Adrian Selway*



## Concert Booking for Future Concerts

Just a quick note to let you know that tickets for the Leeds Messiah are available from Norman, prices are £10 adult, £5 under 16 / student / in receipt of benefits. Contact [tickets@harrogatechoral.org.uk](mailto:tickets@harrogatechoral.org.uk) and will also be on sale on the door on the night.

Tickets for Messiah in Harrogate on 8th December are available via the box office at Harrogate Theatre – tel 01423 502116 or online at [www.harrogatetheatre.co.uk](http://www.harrogatetheatre.co.uk)

Tickets for Creation in the Royal Hall on 23rd March 2019 are also on sale to the general public through the Theatre box office but we have kept back the seats which our excellent ticket sales team know members and friends prefer. So you can book either via Norman or directly via the theatre.

Tickets (unreserved) for the concert in Ripon Cathedral in June will be available soon

Booking forms have been sent out already or you can just email [tickets@harrogatechoral.org.uk](mailto:tickets@harrogatechoral.org.uk) for your bookings.

We also had a great time at the all day rehearsal with Brian - here are a few photos



Working us hard (above left and right) but the basses (right) seemed to be enjoying it!

Serene sopranos (below left) and more hard work below right



There was of course time for lunch – some old friends gathered round Brian!

With the Leeds crowd behind

Sopranos tucking in (below left) and two basses putting the world to rights (below right)



## HCS CONTINUING TO HELP OTHERS

As noted in the last newsletter the charity for the final concert of the 2017-18 season was Crossroads and 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 we were able to present them with a cheque for £250 at the AGM on 4<sup>th</sup> September. Representatives from Crossroads - is a locally based charity who provide home based, direct support services to unpaid carers and the people they care for – also ran the bar for the concert and made some extra money through doing so. The total donated to the four charities during the 2017-18 season was £1750!



Chairman Peter (left) – as one of his last jobs before retiring as Chairman presented the cheque to Simon (right) from Crossroads

As well as our donation each charity can also hold a bucket collection at the end of their concert and use the interval to raise awareness / hold tombolas etc etc. At Magic of Mozart in October we supported Disability Action Yorkshire and at our rehearsal on 31<sup>st</sup> October new Co-Chair Paul was delighted to hand over a cheque for £375 to Jackie from the charity whose aim is to facilitate solutions for disabled people whatever their aspiration and they have number of ways in which they do this.

