



Brockham Choral Society

Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2010

Editor's Introduction - Fred Harrison

At the start of a new Season a chance to be reminded of some recent highlights, both in performance and socially, with pictures enhancing the printed page. And Ed Criswick showing that recipes are not solely the preserve of altos and sopranos, as well as shedding light on lighting, so to speak. At last an opportunity to include Tony

Earnshaw's long promised ode. And not least, our esteemed M.D. introducing us to the exciting year ahead. Enjoy!

Thanks, as ever, to our contributors, and to Messrs. Crow Watkin, Estate Agents, for their support with the printing.

"Around the World in Eighty Minutes" 5th June - A Review by Simon Ames

.Traditional melodies from around the world, augmented with the creative harmonies at which the Society excel, were at the heart of the BCS Summer concert staged at the accommodating St Paul's Church in Dorking.

Andy Martin for others. This combination for the Italian song 'Santa Lucia' was outstanding. Memorable choir showpieces were the hauntingly beautiful Maori song 'Pokarekare Ana' and the spiritual 'Shenandoah'.

Subtly interjecting the Flower duet from Delibes' 'Lakme' to indicate take-off, the audience were musically whisked around the world starting with the seasonally topical 'Country Gardens' by Percy Grainger. The journey touched down briefly in Austria, Germany, Italy, Spain & Portugal, Africa, Australia, New Zealand Latin America and the USA.

Centrepiece was a world premiere of a new light-hearted set of comic choral pieces by the emerging English composer Guy Turner, a BCS commission with the help of the BBC Choral Ambition scheme. The five sections of 'Travels with my Pigeon' brought a variety of tuneful melodies descriptive of pigeons in Europe, the final Bavarian pigeon giving Fred Harrison a perfect opportunity to add a guttural narration as from the Munich Oktoberfest.

Highlights included an entertaining contribution from the young Spanish mezzo-soprano Graciela Rodriguez, an accomplished performer who was suitably accompanied by the choir for some numbers and by percussionist



Guy, Marion, Andy, and Graciela (Photo - Simon Ames)

Splendid entertainment from BCS, directed with enthusiasm by MD

A View from the Front - Andy Phillips

Welcome back to all our readers from what I hope has been a restful and restorative summer break. After such a busy season we all deserve a little time to recharge the batteries and to reflect on the success of our collective endeavours. Once again I would like to offer heartfelt thanks to all who have supported our work in so many different ways - our friends, our relatives, our sponsors, our audiences, our committee and mostly our singers. What a joy it is to be part of such a generous extended family.

And what of the next twelve months? Well, it's more of the same - with bells on! We have in prospect a season with more challenges, more opportunities to develop our work, more projects to help raise our profile and more potential for satisfying our increasingly demanding audiences.

The Handel Messiah by candlelight on 20th November with the Chameleon Arts Baroque Orchestra. The prospect of performing one of the world's best-known choral works in a historically informed manner with some of the country's leading period instrument players.

Christmas concerts on 11th December with local schools and with

Mardi Brass. The evening concert will feature a performance of Finzi's *In Terra Pax*, a beautiful Christmas gem of a piece!

Mendelssohn's colossal oratorio *Elijah* will be performed on 16th April with our friend Andrew Mayor taking the title role. A great opportunity to bring out the drama of this Old Testament story.

With scarcely a break we prepare for our recording sessions on 4th & 5th June. Our Christmas CD will contain music both old and new. More on this later...

And then we aim to run rehearsals on sunny, summer Sunday afternoons in preparation for the Grand Yorkshire Tour on Thursday 28th July - Monday 1st August 2011. Plans are moving along nicely and include a performance in Ripon Cathedral with the army's Heavy Cavalry and Cambrai Band, based in Catterick. This will be in aid of the charity Help for Heroes. The tour might even include a chance to sing in Selby Abbey, scene of my own christening some decades ago ...

None of this can happen without the support of our members and I look forward to working hard with everyone to fulfil what is going



Music of Brahms, 27th March - A Review by Simon Ames

Another well prepared performance by this enterprising society, on this occasion devoted exclusively to the higher profile music of Johannes Brahms.

recitalists.

Brahms took eleven years to complete this work, much of it reflective on the death of his mother three years before he finalised it. The seven sections of the celebrated work differ from other Requiems because it is not a Mass for the Dead, more a work of solace for those who remain.

The score for his Symphony No 4 in E minor demands a big orchestra – and impressively there were 45 musicians on the platform. The opening movement (*Allegro non troppo*) is serene, making way for a strident horn introduction to the 2nd. A sense of gaiety dominates the 3rd movement (*Allegro giocoso*) while the finale returns to a baroque form with brass and woodwind making the running in the stately and sonorous eight-measure theme. The closing statement returns to an emotion of tragedy. It was a top class performance by the orchestra.

Naomi Harvey was elegant with her delivery of the 5th section ‘Ye now have sorrow but yet I will again behold you and your heart shall rejoice’. In the 6th section, Julien and the choir were serene with their rendering of ‘We shall all be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the sound of the last trumpet’.



Naomi Harvey, Andrew Phillips, and Julien Dubreuil (Photo - Simon Ames)

The big sound from the orchestra together with a supreme performance by choir and soloists produced a lofty performance enjoyed and appreciated by a large audience. Musical direction by Andrew Phillips was masterful.

The second half brought the composer’s mighty German Requiem for solo voices, choir and orchestra. Naomi Harvey sang the soprano role, Julien Dubreuil as baritone, both being busy international

Ed sees the Light - Ed Criswick

Ed Criswick was so impressed with the lighting for a Christmas concert he and Romey went to in December last year that the committee agreed to the purchase of a new lighting system for our concerts. This was used for the first time at the Brahms concert.

Using 8 theatre-style lights on 4 stands, the system provides lighting for both choir and orchestra, and ensures not only that we can read our music – always useful! – but also that the choir is brightly lit for the audience. The lights also provide the option for future upgrades; for example we could use dimmers and

The “Jolly” 24th July - Food and Frolic on Film.



The Jolly Feast



Pocket - Sop. Near Ninety Maude prepares and performs (acc. Sue)



Melanie and Reuben - Festival Duet Repeat Performance



Flutey Female



The two - coo Taffy’s “duetting” the Pearl Fishers -

Before After



Saxy Vicar



The Pigeon Fanciers’ Glee Club



By now we’re all aware that we must anchor.
Keep it open, please don’t close it down,
And if he asks about the vowel sounds, it’s invariably the same,
Which helps the choir to make an even sound.

So it’s tar cars Taffy, tar cars Taffy,
Tar cars Taffy?? Nar!



They also serve who only stand and wash!

Ed's Marv'lous Muesli - Ed Criswick

This is a recipe for a delicious breakfast cereal (my son and daughter say it's the best they've ever tasted), full of wholesome yummy ingredients. It's probably not muesli at all, I've been told it's like granola, whatever that is (sounds like a Spanish dance - I also get mixed up over salsa, but that's a different tale). If you want, you can try it out with half quantities.

Mix these ingredients in a bowl:

320g porridge oats	200g unsalted cashew nuts (chopped)
120g oat bran	200g dried fruit (one type, eg apricot, or a mix)
100g sesame seeds	120g desiccated coconut
100g pumpkin seeds	120g currants
100g sunflower seeds	

Preheat oven to 150°C (fan 140°C), gas 3. In a saucepan heat and mix the following:

60ml vegetable oil
120g runny honey
60g dark brown sugar



When the sugar has dissolved, pour the saucepan contents over the dry mix and stir well to ensure the goo coats the mix. Spread the mixture on non-stick baking trays and bake for 35 mins (or possibly longer, depending on your oven). Remove, leave to cool for 5 minutes. Break up the mix into nice smallish lumps (whatever size you prefer in your breakfast bowl). Leave to cool thoroughly before storing in an airtight container. The timing of the baking and cooling before breaking up can be varied according to your oven and your preferences. Enjoy!



Albert and the Choral Society - Tony

There's a famous country village called Brockham
That's noted for bonfires and teas
And it's there that Mr and Mrs Ramsbottom
Came up with a cracking good wheeze

They'd seen how young singers could prosper
Regardless of talent and voice
So Albert, he joined Brockham Choral
He didn't want to but they gave him no choice

The Ramsbottoms wanted a big star
To keep them in their lengthy old age
But Albert, he needed some training
Before singing on TV and stage

Now, father who'd heard about Brockham
And how high a standard they set
Said 'A couple of terms with our Andy
And we'll have Albert singing well yet'

So, Albert he first joined t'sopranos,
'is voice it 'ad not broken yet
And he thought 'e could manage just singing the tune
But they made 'im too much of a pet

So then he tried out wi' the altos
As they'd very few notes to sing
And he found that their Bach was much worse than
their bite
When they took the lad under their wing

He learned to breathe, like an anchor
That a ship might use when it lands
And to watch that chap what stands out in front
When he gesticulates with 'is 'ands

They said 'Use your eyes and your ears
And focus, and sing out as well
And hand over cash to Maria
Who's always got tickets to sell'

Then one day the great event happened
He sang all four parts in one bar
His voice, it changed in an instant
First lower, then higher by far

So they tried 'im out in the tenors
Whose range is tremendous and strong
But he couldn't keep up with those maestros
And they chucked 'im out before long

So he rumbled around with the basses
With still an occasional squeak
But they said to 'im "Lad, if you stand next to Fred,
You'll be on the telly next week"

Now while Albert was focussed on singing
And breathing and all that entails
Father was waiting in t'wine bar
With a genial geezer from Wales

Earnshaw

They 'ad to drink wine in the wine bar
Father thought southern ale was so poor
And they sat round a dirty gurt table
Just on the left by the door

Now naturally Father wanted to know
What progress his Albert was making
The chairperson told him "Very well.
Unless I'm much mistaken

He's got the gift of watching.
The altos think he's sweet.
He sings in natural rhythm
And he's always on the beat

There's just one detail missing
So he'll not get my vote
His words and timing are just fine
But he can't hit the note"

"Oh that's no problem" Father said
"I've heard some people talking
About a choir that needs more men.
I'll take him down to Dorking"

(Written for and performed at the July 2009 "Jolly" by Tony. The Editor felt that it should be preserved in print for posterity! And note: Tony's two-man play "The Door" was very well received at the Edinburgh Festival this summer.)

Accompanists, Workshop, 15th May.



Andy -
Piano



Andrew
& Graciela -
Drums



Reuben -
Accordion



Brockham Choral Society



<http://surreycommunity.info/brockhamchoral/>

BROCKHAM CHORAL SOCIETY

Editor:
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Dates for your Diary

Maude's 90th Birthday Party

Sunday 10 Oct. 2010, 12.30
Hill House Farm.

Quiz Night

Saturday 23 Oct. 2010, 7.30
Mickleham Village Hall

Handel, Messiah by Candlelight

Saturday 20 Nov. 2010, 7.30
St Martin's Church, Dorking

Family Christmas Concerts

Saturday 11 Dec. 2010,
St Martin's Church, Dorking
Children's Concert 3.00pm
Evening Concert 7.30pm

Carol Singing

Reigate Beaumont & Broome Park., 14 December 2010.

Spring Rehearsals

Start Tuesday 4 Jan. 2011,
8pm Powell Corderoy School

Open Choral Workshop

Sat. 5 Feb. 2011 10am - 4pm,
St Paul's Church, Dorking

Annual Dinner

Saturday 5 Mar. 2011

Mendelssohn, Elijah

Saturday 16 Apr. 2011, 7.30pm
St Martins Church, Dorking.

Summer Rehearsals

Start Tuesday 19 Apr. 2011,
8pm Powell Corderoy School

CD Recording

Sat./Sun. , 4/5 June 2011
St Barnabus's Church,
Ranmore.

Teas on the Green, The Jolly

Dates to be announced.

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CHOIR COMMITTEE			
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Part Representatives

Please inform your Representative if you cannot attend a Rehearsal.	Sopranos	Janet Budd	01737 843077
	Altos	Moira Sinden	0208 770 0764
	Tenors	David John	01306 730376
	Basses	Ray White	01306 888959

VACANCIES

Please note that there are currently two vacancies on the Committee. Jenni Lee-Potter would be delighted to hear from anyone who would be interested in joining the team. (The Editor understands that Committee Meetings either start or finish, or both, with wine, but that serious work is achieved in-between!)

Pigeon Walk Pics. 15th June



I hope you're not leading those ladies astray, Gareth!



Strolling? Not likely! We're striders!



And after the walk, some well-earned pub nosh

Brian Richardson's Brockham Wedding Pics. 4th September



(They needed sustenance to tackle Zadok the Priest!)