

Musical Director's Report – September 2017

What a great year it has been!

I'd like to start by thanking all of those members of the committee and choir who have gone the extra mile to make me feel welcome and supported in your fantastic community of music making friends. Furthermore, the administrative help at every aspect of the choir has been notably attentive. Thank you. I'd like to echo Reuben's comments in Portsmouth: Brockham Choral Society's members are always on hand to help with anything at the drop of a hat.

The Saint-Saen's Requiem got us off to a great start bringing us a balanced mix of musicianship challenge while also providing us with time to improve our voices and choral colour. I was also very happy with our organist and soloists and have asked Paul Ayres to play for us again in November 2017 concert. I was most proud to conduct you. The first term saw a great improvement in the choirs singing – notably the sound sounded more engaged and energetic.

Our Christmas concert saw us work with the lovely primary school choir who sang so well and brought great energy to our performance. I would like this to continue. This was a great event and I liked the Christmas atmosphere we created through inviting all the families along too. As a choir, we must maintain our focus on how we sing even in these lighter concerts.

The Puccini Messa di Gloria concert was a great success. This was a big challenge but it was met with enthusiasm and hard work from all the choir members. Working with the British Sinfonietta orchestra went well and they are keen to work with us again. This gave us the opportunity to develop and bring out our voices even more with Puccini's more operatic writing. The audience for this event was notably large – let's continue to grow our audience.

The summer jazz concert was fun but the quality of singing and precision slipped. I underestimated the challenges within our jazz repertoire, which left us short on time to perform to the standard we could have. This aside, the layout, atmosphere jazz band and organization of this event were superb!

Following our fantastic vocally thought-provoking session with Neil Ferris in Portsmouth, moving forward our musical focus should be on continued recruitment and improving our singing. Here's to 2017-2018!