

WIMBORNE CHORAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER  
2015/2016

*'Music washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life'*  
*Berthold Auerbach*

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*Thank you for being here tonight* for WCS's Annual General Meeting. It is really important to attend this meeting because it deals with the nitty-gritty of the running of the Society, your Society, and gives you the opportunity to make suggestions and voice your opinions. A particular welcome to anyone here for the first time. We hope that your association with WCS will be a long and happy one.

*Reading through the minutes* of the last AGM I must admit I checked the date to see if I was looking at the correct ones. It all seems such a long time ago and now here we are planning our last concert of 2016 and looking forward to our 2017 programme.

*Looking back to this time last year*, we were starting rehearsals for Haydn's 'Nelson Mass' and Geoffrey Bush's 'Christmas Cantata'. While the Haydn was familiar to many of us, the same could not be said of the 'Christmas Cantata'. Choral Societies are not always good at dealing with the unfamiliar, we're a suspicious lot, but it was good to have the challenge of something new and the two pieces proved to make a pleasing December concert.

*By the time we started on our spring programme* we were on a roll! With the familiar Michael Haydn 'Requiem' to bolster us up, we headed off once again into the realms of the unknown, this time with Howard Goodall's 'Eternal Light'. Oh, if only we'd known, if only someone had warned us about '*Revelation: Factum est Silentium*'! Never, in the field of Wimborne Choral singing, was the panic of so many outweighed by the confidence experienced by so few! Tongues were tied, no doubt some false teeth worked loose and a look of utter fear was seen in many an eye. But WE DID IT! We practiced and practiced, and come the night we did it! Really well. It was a wonderful evening and we deserved to be proud.

*After our experiences in the previous two concerts*, Vaughan Williams' "Toward the Unknown Region" seemed a very appropriate piece with which to round up the year. There was also the unfamiliar 'Insanae et Vanae Curae' which, despite its rather threatening title, proved to be quite a lively romp. Vivaldi's 'Gloria' was lovely while Elgar's "From the Bavarian Highlands" had feet tapping to its dance-like rhythms. But for me, the highlight of the evening was Britten's arrangement of the National Anthem, the beautiful, subdued opening leading to the joyous, full-volumed second verse. What a way to end the year.

*With so many new choirs now around the area*, it becomes increasingly difficult to bring in large audiences to our concerts. While the choral scene has expanded, the number of people who attend concerts has remained relatively stable, and they have a greater choice. For this reason we have to work really hard to boost our audience numbers. We can be

proud of our concerts and the standard of the choir, soloists and accompanists, and of course our Musical Director, so we should be keen “put ourselves out there,” to tell family, friends and colleagues what an enjoyable evening they will have with us. Don’t be shy, talk us up. We do our best advertising around the town and in the press, but we also need word of mouth. If you are on Facebook, or have a relative or friend who is, go to our Facebook Page, share our posts with your Friends, post on the page yourself, it all helps. Other choirs do it and we mustn’t be left behind. Sadly, the number of tickets actually bought by members of the choir is very low, so we need to improve this situation if we possibly can.

*We had two very successful Social Events in the past year.* Our Coffee Morning had a record attendance and it was great to see people sitting and chatting over a drink and piece of cake. In the summer our Sunday Lunch was also well attended and we enjoyed a lovely meal in the beautiful setting of Horton Village Hall. This coming summer we will try to avoid Father’s Day so maybe even more of you will be able to come.

*Last December we sang carols for Save the Children,* relocating to the Minster Green after a few years outside Waitrose. We have been invited this year to take part in Kingston Lacey’s Christmas Celebrations by singing carols there. We are finalising arrangements for this and will let you know the date in due course. We still have to see if we will be able to do our Save the Children spot as well.

*The start of this new term* has seen a number of new faces at rehearsals, as well as some returning ‘old’ ones. Welcome to everyone.

*Sadly, we lost some friends during the year.* Mike Marshall and Jean Parker, both members of FWCS, and Eileen Sweeney who died in Austria after moving there to be close to her son and daughter, following the death of her husband Paddy. They all made contributions to the Society, and are missed.

*As always I need to thank the Committee* for their hard work and support throughout the past year, and Chris for all the work he puts in not only at rehearsals and concerts, but in the preparation which goes on behind the scenes and is seen by a very few. A big thank you too to all of you, the members of Wimborne Choral Society for your support and friendship during the past year.

<i>Dates for your Diary:</i>	Saturday Dec. 3 <sup>rd</sup> 2016	Handel: Messiah by Candle light
	Saturday March 25 <sup>th</sup> 2017	Haydn: Paukenmesse Schubert: Mass No.3 in B Flat
	Saturday July 1 <sup>st</sup> 2017	Rossini: Petite Messe Solonelle
	Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup> November	Music for Brass and Choir

More detailed lists of dates and events will be in the Schedule, to be with you soon.

*And finally....*

“One good thing about music, when it hits you, you feel no pain”

Bob Marley

“Music is a moral law. It gives soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination and charm and gaiety to life.”

Plato.

Happy Singing!

Marion