

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Christmas Concert: 17<sup>th</sup> December 2011, Victoria Hall, Saltaire

- Raised £404 for the Lord Mayors charity: Marie Curie Cancer Care, Bradford Hospice

Hire-a-Choir

November and December saw the choir in demand for carol singing events across Bradford, including Bradford Industrial Museum, Marks and Spencer, and Morrisons Head Office! These provided some great publicity for the choir as well as earning money for choir funds! Wouldn't it be great if we could hire ourselves out throughout the year! In order to do this we need volunteers. We would like to have a list of people who would be willing to organise and lead or conduct events so that this

doesn't fall on just one or two people. If you feel that you would not like to 'conduct' but would be willing to lead events like carol singing, that's great - just let us know! Please email Richander Birkinshaw [diva2@f2s.com](mailto:diva2@f2s.com) if you would be willing to add your name to this list.

Rehearsal Venue

As announced at the first rehearsal in January, the Committee has now agreed a change in rehearsal venue to Northcliffe Church, Shipley which will provide us with a larger, most suitable environment for our rehearsals.

Rehearsal dates and details

The rehearsal dates for the rest of the season are:

10 January 2012 – 3 April 2012

17 April 2012 – 12 June 2012 (with 16 June 2012 concert)

*Messiah* will be rehearsed on 17 & 24 January, 7 & 28 February and 20 & 27 March. April concert will be rehearsed on 31 Jan, 14 & 21 February, 6 & 13 March.

**Please endeavour to come to as many rehearsals as possible as we've a lot of music to learn in the next 3 months.**

Minimum rehearsal attendance

As a result of comments made in the questionnaire, the Committee has agreed to reinstate, with immediate effect, the 75% rule relating to rehearsal attendance. The Constitution says that all members wishing to sing in a given concert must attend 75% rehearsals, plus the pre-concert rehearsal (usually the afternoon of the concert) to be eligible to sing in the concert. Anyone not meeting this attendance rule will only be allowed to sing in a concert at the discretion of the Musical Director. Anyone who thinks/knows that they are unlikely to meet this minimum requirement should see a member of the Committee.

Concert dates and Music 11-12 and 12-13

Dates for forthcoming comments, with an indication of basic repertoire are:

**31<sup>st</sup> March 2012:** Concert at Bradford Cathedral

Handel *Messiah* with the Reg Vardy Band and extra singers

- **Posters and flyers are now available – please take and distribute as widely as possible to help promote this event!**

**Hospitality For Visiting Soloists/Accompanists**

*Message from Anne Vickerman*

I would like to set up a list of about 8 people who would be prepared to entertain soloists for tea following the afternoon rehearsal of our concerts. At the moment I am calling on two or three willing volunteers. It would be greatly appreciated to have volunteers who are not members of the committee, as these people often have other calls on their time on the day. I would like to put the list together before our March concert as we have 4 soloists on that day; if I could put together a list it would mean those who volunteered would only need to do it every 2 years.

**Please contact Anne as soon as possible if you are able to help.**

**Ladies' concert dress**

The Committee has been looking at options for a new concert blouse for the ladies, to match with the current dark blue skirt. Further details will be available in the next couple of weeks.

**Concert folders**

The Committee is looking to purchase extra concert folders as we now don't have enough to go round at every concert due to an increase in choir numbers and the loss of some folders.

There will be a new system for distributing concert folders; each member will be given a folder to look after for a **returnable** £5 deposit and it will be their responsibility to ensure that they bring it along to a concert. There will be a few spare folders that can be borrowed on the concert day, again for a £5 refundable deposit.

**Concert tickets: new way of purchasing advance tickets**

Rather than hand out tickets for members to sell, we are going to hand out application forms. These will also be available to download from the website. To purchase tickets, the application form can either be sent in (with a cheque and stamped addressed envelope) or be brought to rehearsals with either cash or a cheque made payable to *The Bradford Choral*. The reason for the change is simple - we need to keep track of how many tickets we have sold in advance of events so we know how many are available on the door!



21<sup>st</sup> April 2012: Concert at St Paul's, Shipley  
Music to include:

- Faure Requiem
  - Mendelssohn Ave Maria
  - Bruckner Ave Maria
  - Victoria Ave Maria
  - Faure Cantique de Jean Racine
  - Franck Panis Angelicus
  - Allegri Miserere
  - Schubert Psalm 23
  - Mozart Ave Verum
- \* from the European Sacred Music book

- 16<sup>th</sup> June 2012: Concert at St Paul's, Shipley
- Handel – Coronation Anthems (*My Heart is Inditing* and *Let Thy Hand be Strengthened*)
  - English Part Songs – Delius, German and Coleridge-Taylor (all with 2012 anniversaries)

17<sup>th</sup> November 2012: Diamond Jubilee Concert, at Bradford Cathedral

- Parry *I was Glad*
- Handel Coronation Anthems *The King shall rejoice* and *Zadok the Priest*
- Albion! *Adagio for organ and strings*
- Vaughan Williams *Taste & See*
- Stanford *Bb Te Deum*
- Handel *Organ Concerto*
- Mozart *Coronation Mass*

15<sup>th</sup> December 2012: Christmas concert at Victoria Hall

12<sup>th</sup> April 2013: Verdi *Requiem* at Bradford Cathedral

- 15<sup>th</sup> June 2013: St Paul's, Shipley, with the following basic repertoire:
- Britten *Rejoice in the Lamb*
  - Stanford *Songs of the Fleet*
  - Mixture of part-songs, solos, duets etc



Carol Singing at Bradford Industrial Museum, 26<sup>th</sup> November 2011

### Publicity & Marketing

#### **The Bradford Chorale on the internet:**

- **Website:** [www.bradfordchorale.org.uk](http://www.bradfordchorale.org.uk)
- **Twitter:** @BradfordChorale
- **Facebook:** The Bradford Chorale
- **Blog:** [bradfordchorale.blogspot.com/](http://bradfordchorale.blogspot.com/)

#### **Mailing lists:**

The Chorale also has two email lists, one for singing members and one for supporters. If you wish to be added to either of these lists, please email the Publicity Officer, Louise Brown, on [publicity@bradfordchorale.org.uk](mailto:publicity@bradfordchorale.org.uk)

#### **Subscribers**

Subscribers are able to purchase tickets in advance for the forthcoming season's concerts at a saving on the cost of purchasing individual tickets. Subscribers also receive a free copy of the programme on the day of the concert (on production of their ticket).

If you or you know of someone that has missed out this time around, but would like to become a subscriber next season, please get in touch and we'll add you (them) to our mailing list! Please contact the Publicity Officer, Louise Brown, on 01274 548858 or email [publicity@bradfordchorale.org.uk](mailto:publicity@bradfordchorale.org.uk).

#### **Friends of The Bradford Chorale**

The *Friends of The Bradford Chorale* provides a link with *The Chorale*, supports *The Chorale's* activities, and provides benefits for its members. For a minimum donation of £10, *Friends* will receive a newsletter, invitations to social events, and the option for their name to appear in the concert programmes for the 2011-2012 season. If you wish to become a Friend, or know someone who would like to support us in this way, please visit the website, or email [Friends@bradfordchorale.org.uk](mailto:Friends@bradfordchorale.org.uk).

#### **Sponsorship and advertising**

The Bradford Chorale could not afford to put on such an exciting programme without support. Sponsorship can range from a long-term arrangement (a season or beyond) to support for a single concert, or advertising in our programme. If you would like more information please contact our Publicity Officer, Louise Brown, on 01274 548858 or email [publicity@bradfordchorale.org.uk](mailto:publicity@bradfordchorale.org.uk).

We are grateful to the following businesses for supporting the choir's 2011/2012 season. Please mention that you saw their advert in one of our programmes if you should use their services.

- The Early Music Shop, Saltaire
- Massarella's, Saltaire
- Bradford Woodworkers, Heaton
- John Summers Butchers, Clayton

We are also grateful to The Emerald Foundation who have agreed to support our performance of the Verdi *Requiem* in April 2013. Thanks go to Alyx Elliott for her help in putting the bid together which led to this award.



Carol Singing at Morrisons' Head Office, Bradford, 14<sup>th</sup> December 2011

### Taking a Break from Singing

It's appreciated that members might wish to take a break from singing for a while due to other personal circumstances. The Committee is supportive of this, but would like to be clear which members are taking a break and which have actually decided to leave the choir so that we can plan properly for our concerts.

Members wishing to take a break (for whatever reason) are asked to contact the Membership Secretary (Ann Perry/Judith Robinson) in writing with the start and finish dates of the break, which can be for up to a year at a time. Members taking a break will be contacted to check whether they intend to return (or wish to take a further break).

**Help raise funds whilst shopping online!**  
Simply register with [easfundraising.org.uk](http://easfundraising.org.uk) and add *The Bradford Choral Society* as your chosen cause. From then on, always go to their website first to do your online shopping and money will be donated to us from the retailer! There are lots of retailers, holiday companies, insurance companies, etc that have registered, so go on, register, it's a really easy way to raise funds for the choir!  
[www.easfundraising.org.uk/causes/thebradfordchorale](http://www.easfundraising.org.uk/causes/thebradfordchorale)

### Concerts & Music Questionnaire results

A big thank you to everyone who completed and returned a questionnaire before Christmas – we had 44 returned! All the comments have been collated and a report discussed by the Committee at a recent meeting, with further discussion to take place at the Music Sub-Committee at the end of the month.

*Findings include:*

- Virtually all respondents liked most, if not all, the music we've sung over the past few seasons
- Virtually all respondents wished to have a singing event of some sort in the summer term in either late May/early June
- Virtually all respondents think members should be committed to sing in concerts with music they don't like as the choir is a team and it's unfair to others to pull out on this basis alone
- A wide variety of suggestions of the types of music and individual pieces of music members would like to sing
- A number of general suggestions regarding programme planning & financing, rehearsals, attendance requirement (see later) etc

Details of the Committee's response to some of the issues raised will be communicated in the next couple of months as further decisions are made.

### Newsletter

A BIG thank you also goes to Jacky Atkinson who has compiled the newsletter over the past few years.

We are now looking for another volunteer to take this on – there will be 3 or 4 during each season and all copy will be provided. All you need to do is compile and make it look pretty! Please contact Richander if you're interested [diva2@fzs.com](mailto:diva2@fzs.com)