

July concert: Classic Vienna

The heat certainly did not deter people from coming to the concert. Over the two nights there were just over 350 people in the audience to hear music by the greats of CLASSIC VIENNA – Mozart, Schubert, Beethoven and Bruckner. An added bonus of a summer concert can be the enjoyment of a refreshing drink outside in the churchyard in the interval, and this year was perfect for that. Oxford Daily Information sent a reviewer, Andrew Bell, to the Saturday concert. If you would like to see what he wrote, go to the WMS website: www.woodstockmusic.info and look at the review.

Chamber Choir trip to Berlin (Wednesday 25 - Sunday 29 July)

Thank you, Gilliane, for the huge amount of organisation that went into this trip, and for always being one step ahead, keeping us informed about what was going to happen next. Thank you, Paul, for choosing such a varied selection of music and for your energy in keeping going in the heat. The weather was even hotter in Berlin than it was over here, added to which there was a terrifying thunderstorm on Saturday night just after our concert had finished. After the dull acoustic of our rehearsal room, it was a joy to sing in the Hochmeisterkirche. The church was full and the audience of over 160 people was enthusiastic about our programme of anthems, madrigals and songs interspersed with organ solos played by Alistair Eden. As usual, Alistair was able to turn his hands to anything, from going it alone on the organ to providing organ or piano accompaniments as required. The charity benefiting from the concert was Laib und Seele (Body and Soul) which operates in a similar way to our Food Banks. The retiring collection raised 1300 Euros for them – more than they had ever had for a single event.

Plans are already underway for next year's trip to Newcastle (31 July – 4 August). Gilliane has prepared an information sheet about this (sent to you by email on 6 August), and printed copies will also be available at rehearsals.

Autumn term: concerts Friday 7 and Saturday 8 December

First choir rehearsal: 6 September (no rehearsal 18 & 25 October)

Following on from our 2016 concert of the *Spring* and *Summer* movements from Haydn's oratorio *The Seasons*, we now complete the year with *Autumn* and *Winter*, and as before, we are singing in English. The popularity of *The Creation* with English audiences encouraged Haydn and his librettist Gottfried van Swieten to publish *The Seasons* in English as well as in German. The text is loosely based on a poem by the Scottish poet James Thomson, but if you read the Preface to the New Novello Edition which we are using, you will see that the beer-drinking farmers have been transformed into wine-drinking Austrians. Despite his failing health, Haydn worked on the composition for two years before its first performance in Vienna in April 1801. Two of our three soloists, Katherine Walker and Brian McAlea, have sung for us on numerous occasions including the 2016 *Seasons* concert. The third, Tristan Stocks, sang in our *Messiah* also 2016, and twice before that.

Also included in the autumn programme are two Romantic part songs depicting autumn and winter: *Autumn's Treasures* by JG Callcott and *Summer is gone* by Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, plus orchestrations of two of Tchaikovsky's piano compositions *The Seasons*.

Vocal scores

Elizabeth thanks all those who helped with the rubbing-out session on the Monday after the concert. There were marks which were not ours, so if you borrow a library copy, rub out all previous marks, and use a soft pencil when you make your own. The charge for music hire this term is £5, unless you have your own copy of *The Seasons* (New Novello Edition), in which case you need bring only £3 for the part songs.

A reminder for those on the Berlin trip: please return your music to Elizabeth in September.

Community Centre Chairs

Rosemary and Tom have agreed to continue organising the rota system for chair-moving. Thank you, everyone, for your co-operation with this. We could pay to have it done, but by doing it ourselves we save the Society about £600 per annum. *Rosemary says:* "If everyone who can carry a chair signs up, no one will have to do the job more than once per term. There will be a rota to fill in on the table next to Paul's rehearsal CDs. Please try to add your name at the first rehearsal - before you forget! Many thanks."

Annual General Meeting: Thursday 8 November

As agreed last year, the date of the AGM will be held later in the autumn term from now on, to allow more time for the accounts to be audited after the end of our financial year. This year it will be on Thursday 8 November at 7.30, in the Community Centre, immediately before the choir rehearsal.

WMS budget & subscriptions – from the Treasurer

When Richard drew up his first draft of the budget for 2018-19, it showed a deficit of over £4,800, though a later iteration reduced this to £3,700! The forecast deficit was largely due to an expensive concert, plus increased costs for music hire and music storage. We can tolerate moderate deficits for one year at a time, but should try to avoid planning for a deficit much into four figures. The committee decided that the forecast deficit should be reduced by a combination of measures, including abolishing the concessionary ticket price for senior citizens and raising the annual subscription for choral members above the rate of inflation. These measures reduce the forecast deficit to about £1,600.

Accordingly, the subscription for choir members for 2018-2019 will be £96. This will entitle members to sing in rehearsals for three terms and in six concerts, which compares very favourably with other local societies whose members pay roughly the same for two terms and two concerts. The subscription for orchestral members will remain at £60. Please bring a cheque for the appropriate amount, made payable to Woodstock Music Society, to the first rehearsal you attend. If you prefer to pay by BACS, the details you need are as follows: Account name: Woodstock Music Society. Account number: 13383168. Sort code: 30-19-83. Finally, if the increase causes difficulties for any member, please have a word in confidence with Richard about the option of staged payments.

Ticket prices

Most of our tickets are sold at the concessionary price, and the committee has decided to simplify the structure. Starting with the December concert this year, there will be one price (£14) for tickets sold at the door, and £13 for tickets bought in advance. The price for full-time students remains the same at £5 and there will still be no charge for accompanied children under 16.

Patrons

We are always happy to welcome new patrons, and we have added several to our list recently. The subscription is £60 for a single patron and £90 for a couple. Patrons are entitled to a ticket for three concerts, plus a complimentary programme and drink at each concert. If you know of anyone who comes regularly to our concerts, do ask them if they are interested in becoming a patron. If they are, would you let our patrons' secretary Barbara Pix know, and she will be happy to write to them.

St Mary Magdalene Church

It is nearly a year since St Mary Magdalene Church was refurbished with improved facilities and chairs instead of pews. Many people were involved in achieving this, in particular the Rector, Adrian Daffern, who was a Patron of the Society and supported us in a number of ways. He has now left to take up a post in Cambridge as Vicar of Great St Mary's, the University church, and we have sent him our good wishes for the future.

KAOS autumn production

After 40 years as Musical Director of Kidlington Amateur Operatic Society, Paul is leaving them after the Christmas concert. His last stage production for KAOS is *South Pacific*, so if you want to catch this, make a note of the performance dates in Gosford Hill School: Wednesday 17 to Saturday 20 October. Tickets will be available from certain shops in Kidlington and at our rehearsals. They are the same price each night: £13, or £8 for anyone in full-time education.

WMS 2019 - Please make a note of these dates:

Spring concert: 5 & 6 April. 1st choir rehearsal: 10 January. Half-term break: 21 February.

Elgar: *The Light of Life* and *The Snow*. Saint-Saëns: *Cello Concerto (A minor)*

Summer concert: 12 & 13 July. 1st choir rehearsal: 25 April. Half-term break: 30 May.

Chilcott: *Requiem*, Haydn: *Missa brevis* and *Symphony 103 (Drumroll)*

Winter concert: 13 & 14 December. 1st choir rehearsal: 12 September. Half-term break: 31 October.

Gounod: *St Cecilia Mass* and *Méditation*, Debussy: *Marche Écossaise*, Fauré: *Pavane* and *Dolly Suite*

Evelyn Hendy, Secretary, choir@woodstockmusic.info