

Report from Musical Director

We have had a very successful year since the last AGM: Verismo!, a G&S gala, and a Come-and-Sing Vivaldi Gloria - all extremely successful. By the time we hold our AGM we shall have given only the 2nd full performance of a masterwork by one of Britain's finest and most beloved composers: C.V. Stanford's Mass 'Via Victrix'. A great work performed (I trust) extremely well; a challenge, but an important contribution to the cultural life of Lincoln and, more widely, a scholarly endeavour of national importance. Remember that Mendelssohn had to 'rediscover' Bach's passions in the C19th. Re-examining and performing historically neglected works is important work and helps us frame our perception of the canon as a whole.

We shall experiment with alternative rooms at the University for our weekly rehearsals in the coming weeks. Let's see how they go so we can find our right rehearsal home. There is no doubt in my mind that the university is the best possible home for us as it helps us reach new members. With our Scholars and Apprentices we have a strong link with the student population and we have University staff joining us now which is great. Keep spreading the word and let's keep our choir growing younger!

Team Choir

I have noticed over time but particularly post-pandemic a certain tendency of some members to dip out of a rehearsal schedule and concert if they perceive that the repertoire chosen is too challenging or if they simply do not like it. This is deeply regrettable. A choir is a team and we need to field a full squad for every match if we are to be successful. I urge members to please stick with the process when faced with challenging or unfamiliar repertoire - even if they think they don't like it. Challenging music does not mean bad music and, as with many works, they often take time to grow on you. Remember how you felt about Jonathan Dove's There was a Child at the beginning of the rehearsals and then recall how you felt at the ovation at the end of the performance...

Collective Responsibility/Collective Efficacy

On a similar thread. We do not audition on the grounds of the ability to read music. In a choir of our size, who rehearse as much as we do before a concert, we expect to learn our repertoire during rehearsals. However, there is an expectation that members will devote some time away from rehearsals to their own learning. Only once the notes are learnt can we work on the important work of blending a sound and finding our collective performance. There are times when we are still at the note-learning stage very close to the performance which makes your MD stressed. Please help my blood pressure and deepen your enjoyment by doing your homework.

Committee

We need members to step up and get involved in the running of the choir. Without their work the choir will fold. We need a diverse and vibrant committee. If you think you'd like to help then please speak up and get involved. If it's too late or not a good time this year then please think about putting yourself forward next year. Your choir needs you!