

Tiptree Choral Society Newsletter No. 37

Making music together since 1945

Last time I wrote one of these newsletters, I mentioned that we were approaching the longest day and now look where we are – not that far off the shortest day! How it has taken me so long to put pen to paper again I do not know but look on the bright side - at least it is not December quite yet!

Having heard a reference to it on the radio, I looked up the reasons given by William Byrd for learning to sing. Some of you may know of these already. Byrd, who lived until he was eighty, long enough to influence two generations of musicians, gave eight reasons and although they were written in 1588, they might well have been written in the 21st century and all that would differ would be the spelling!



"Reasons briefly set downe by th'auctor [of 'Psalmes, Sonets and Songs'], to perswade every one to learne to sing.

- 1. First it is a Knowledge easily taught, and quickly learned where there is a good Master, and an apt Scoller.*
- 2. The exercise of singing is delightfull to Nature and good to preserve the health of Man.*
- 3. It doth strengthen all the parts of the brest, and doth open the pipes.*
- 4. It is a singular good remedie for a stuttering & stammering in the speech.*
- 5. It is the best meanes to procure a perfect pronunciation & to make a good Orator.*

6. It is the onely way to know where Nature hath bestowed the benefit of a good voyce: which gift is so rare, as there is not one among a thousand, that hath it: and in many, that excellent gift is lost, because they want Art to expresse Nature.

7. There is not any Musicke of Instruments whatsoever, comparable to that which is made of the voyces of Men, where the voyces are good, and the same well sorted and ordered.

8. The better the voyce is, the meeter it is to honour and serve God there with: and the voyce of man is chiefly to be employed to that ende.
Omnis spiritus laudet Dominum ["Let every spirit praise the Lord"]
Since singing is so good a thing,
I wish all men would learne to sing."

There are lots of opportunities for us to sing during the Christmas period, with concerts, carol services and carol singing aplenty - there's a local 'sing' in the Moot Hall on the 10th December for instance, and a little further afield, Hutton and Shenfield are offering 'Music for Christmas' on the 23rd December - so let's hope we can get out there and enjoy it! And if we travel by bus...



Have you shared a bus ride with a fox recently? One certainly hopped on a London bus last week and enjoyed a ride on the open top deck! How on earth did they not see him get on and trot upstairs? Is this one waiting for the next bus do you think?!

Birthday Greetings



Here comes the trivia, just in time for those Christmas quizzes: Did you know that more people are born in September than any other month and that an above average number of dentists are born in December? Also, autumn born babes are likely to be more inclined to be sporty than spring born babes. Hmm...

Birthday people that I know about this term are Carol and Sue M, Jenny A, Jenny B and James in September; Yvonne, Jenny L, Helena, Alan and our very own David in October; Jenny P in November and Katie and Judith in December. Special congrats to Carol, Jenny P and Judith for their – to borrow our President's phrase – 'naughty' birthdays!

Dates for your 2017-2018 Diary

2017

- December 2nd Ola Gjeilo and Britten at St Luke's Church with the Kingfisher Sinfonietta
- Wednesday December 6th Carol singing at Forrester Park Country Club 7:00-8:00pm. Please arrive 6:45pm
End of autumn term - there will be no Thursday rehearsal on 7th December.



2018

- Thursday 4th January Spring term starts
- Saturday 24th March Brahms Requiem & Schubert Mass in G
The Brahms concert marks the end of the spring term.
- Thursday 19th April Summer term starts
- Wednesday May 9th Reception for French choir at St Luke's Church Hall
- Friday 11th May concert with French choir at St Botolph's in Colchester
- Saturday 12th May concert with French choir at Tolleshunt Knights Village Hall
- Saturday 30th June Prom in the Barn
- Thursday 12th July AGM and end of year
- Thursday 6th September Autumn term starts
- Saturday 8th December Christmas concert, programme to be announced



Slightly early, but have a very happy Christmas everyone!

Liz, 26.11.2017