



Ashford Choral Society

A tradition of choral singing since 1857

Conductor: Paul Young Deputy Conductor and Accompanist: Matthew Raisbeck

Chairman: Alan Paterson Secretary: Virginia Brown

Emeritus Conductor: Mark Deller

Newsletter – November 2020

ASHFORD CHORAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER – NOVEMBER 2020

During the pandemic your committee has been holding regular meetings on Zoom to assess the ever-changing regulatory picture and ensure that the society is well placed to come out of 'hibernation' as soon as it is safe to do so. For example, Jane Miller is working on a Covid risk assessment to enable us to return to Ashford School when possible.

Members can rest assured that the society's financial position is such that we can face the future with some confidence and we have ensured that we retain the services of Paul Young and Matthew Raisbeck.

The future after Covid will be financially challenging for all music organisations, with increased costs for cleaning, hall hire and probably smaller audience numbers – it is thus vital we retain the support of our members and patrons.

REHEARSE AT HOME

Whilst we hope eventually to be able to return to rehearsing in Covid-secure conditions, Dominic Urand has researched a system where we can all learn our individual parts at home.

This is a free YouTube facility, where a recording will be produced by Paul for each voice part and you can listen, then sing along and learn at home. You will shortly receive an e-mail giving details.

If enough of us take part and record our efforts, another system is being explored which will enable the editing of those individual efforts into a 'virtual choir' which we will all be able to hear.

CONCERT PROGRAMME FOR 2021

Venues had been reserved long ago for a programme of concerts for 2021. However the first concert, which was planned for March 13th, will now not take place.

However please hold the following dates in your diaries for concerts at the Colyer-Fergusson Hall:

- Saturday May 15th
- Saturday November 13th

Of course these dates and the venue may be subject to change due to Covid restrictions.

PROGRAMME OF MONTHLY TALKS FOR MEMBERS

Whilst we all wait for a vaccine and for the epidemic to decline, so we can meet in person and start singing again, we have put together a programme of monthly talks for members, which we hope will support our sense of community.

All talks will be on Zoom – with a link sent out by email to all members prior to each event.

DECEMBER

Tuesday December 8th at 7.30pm

‘Sleepers Awake’

Grab a glass of wine and cosy up to your PC or tablet and hear Paul talk on ‘Sleepers Awake!’: an examination of Bach's famous cantata 140, ‘Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme’.

Members may wish to access the music on ‘Youtube’ to hear the specific parts referred to during Paul’s talk. Links to these musical clips will be sent with the Zoom meeting link.



JANUARY

Tuesday January 12th at 7.30pm

‘Is singing really good for you?’

Get a mug of tea and sit down with your computer whilst Mathew talks to us.

There has been a lot of talk about the health benefits of singing – especially during the pandemic. Matthew will take us through the science behind the headlines and examine what it is about singing that makes it so beneficial.



FEBRUARY

date to be advised

Greg Tassell, the tenor soloist who sang the role of St. Nicolas at our November 2019 concert, will join us over Zoom to talk about the performance history and technicalities of a chosen role.



MARMALADE – a reminder

Thanks to those of you who have supported the society by purchasing Ruth Foster's famous jams and marmalades. Margery Thomas, who has organised sales so efficiently, has now sold out of marmalade, but there are a few jars of plum and apple jam remaining. Please contact Margery directly by calling 07870 829659 to arrange delivery or collection.



Going forward, we are delighted to learn that Ruth will be making marmalade in 2021 – even if we have to run a distribution system on a delivery or click-and-collect basis!

We look forward to seeing you on December 8th for Paul's talk!