



STIRLING CITY CHOIR

# *Noteworthy*

**THE NEWSLETTER OF STIRLING CITY CHOIR**

[www.stirlingcitychoir.org.uk](http://www.stirlingcitychoir.org.uk)

**April 2009**

## **CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE**

Change can be constructive. Stirling City Choir is in the midst of change. New beginnings are just around the corner. But before all that, our Spring Concert will be held at **7.30pm on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April** in the wonderful acoustic provided by the Church of the Holy Rude. The programme comprises two works: "Via Crucis" by Franz Liszt – particularly fitting for this Church, because Holy Rude means Holy Cross; and "Lux Aeterna" by the modern American composer, Morten Lauridsen. These two works are rarely sung in Scotland and provide an appropriate means of celebrating the forthcoming Easter season. The soloists are Clare Shearer, mezzo, and Phil Gault, bass; the organist is Ian Boulter; and Robert Tait is the conductor.

We are deeply grateful to Bob Tait for stepping in as our Interim Conductor from January to April. We have thoroughly enjoyed his outstanding leadership during these past four months and look forward to our concert on 26<sup>th</sup> April under his baton.

Now to our new beginnings. The process of looking for a new conductor began in the autumn, when Eric Dunlea told us he would be leaving after the Christmas concert. We received ten applications for the post – in a sense an embarrassment of riches! The Committee formed a short list of three, each of whom was interviewed and auditioned. All choir members took part in the process, which resulted in a clear statement of our opinion. We are grateful to those who applied and, in particular, to the two who gave of their experience and of their time to come and be auditioned by the choir, but were not successful. Accordingly, the Committee has appointed Gillian Craig to be our Musical Director /Conductor from September 2009. Gillian is an LRAM, MA Hons, (St.Andrews) with long and varied experience of conducting. We look forward with keen anticipation to the new session under her leadership.

Maxwell  
Craig



### A NOTE OF THANKS...

“I just wanted to convey the thanks of all the handbell ringers for the splendid contribution Stirling City Choir made to our concert on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December in Dunblane Cathedral. The sound was marvellous, and it was great to have such a responsive choir in front of me making the carols for all sound fantastic. Thank you to all members of the choir – all were very much appreciated.”

Malcolm Wilson (of the Dunblane Cathedral Hand Bell Ringers)

### THINGS WE SING...

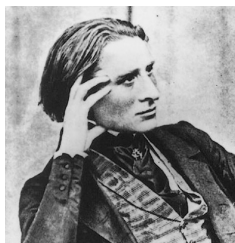


**Morten Johannes Lauridsen** is an [American composer](#), born in 1943. He was composer-in-residence of the [Los Angeles Master Chorale](#) (1994–2001) and has been a professor of composition at the [University of Southern California Thornton School of Music](#) for more than 30 years.

Lauridsen's vocal compositions, particularly *O Magnum Mysterium*, *Dirait-on* (from *Les Chansons des Roses*) and *O Nata Lux* (from *Lux Aeterna*) are becoming popular items in the choral repertoire. From 1993 Lauridsen's music has rapidly increased in international popularity, and by the century's end he had eclipsed Randall Thompson as the most frequently performed American choral composer.

Lauridsen's works have been recorded on over 100 CDs, three of which have received Grammy nominations. A recipient of numerous grants, prizes and commissions, Lauridsen chaired the Composition department at the [USC Thornton School of Music](#) from 1990-2002, founded the School's Advanced Studies Program in Film Scoring, and is currently Distinguished Professor of Composition.

In 2006, Morten Lauridsen was named an ‘American Choral Master’ by the National Endowment for the Arts. In 2007, he received the [National Medal of Arts](#) from the [President of the United States](#) in a [White House](#) ceremony, ‘for his composition of radiant choral works combining musical beauty, power and spiritual depth that have thrilled audiences worldwide.’



**Franz Liszt** (October 22, 1811 – July 31, 1886) was a [Hungarian composer](#), [virtuoso pianist](#) and teacher. He became renowned throughout Europe for his great skill as a performer during the 19th century. He is said to have been the most technically advanced and perhaps greatest pianist of all time. He was also an important and influential composer, a notable piano teacher, a conductor who contributed significantly to the modern development of the art, and a benefactor to other composers and performers, notably [Richard Wagner](#), [Hector Berlioz](#), [Camille Saint-Saëns](#), [Edvard Grieg](#) and [Alexander Borodin](#).



As a composer, Liszt was one of the most prominent representatives of the '[Neudeutsche Schule](#)' ('New German School'). He left behind a huge and diverse body of work, in which he influenced his forward-looking contemporaries and anticipated some 20th-century ideas and trends. Some of his most notable contributions were the invention of the [symphonic poem](#), developing the concept of [thematic transformation](#) as part of his experiments in [musical form](#) and making radical departures in [harmony](#). Liszt has written many great piano pieces of our time, and still remains one of the most important, influential composers in our history.

Source: [www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org)

### **A PROJECT IN THE MAKING...**

Peter Sutherland is currently researching the history of the choir, looking at Stirling Observer archives, library references and our own archive programmes, which date into the 1950s and beyond. We look forward to hearing how his efforts are going, and his findings, in future issues of *Noteworthy*. Happy Hunting Peter!

### **AND FINALLY...**

Over recent months we have been joined by some new faces, and also re-joined by some familiar ones – welcome and welcome back to you all! We hope you are enjoying being with us and that we'll see you again when we return in September.

### **A NOTE ABOUT *Noteworthy***

Suggestions, comments, or articles are welcome, though contributions may have to be edited. Any items for the next edition should be submitted Sarah Lamont, 14B Victoria Place, Stirling FK8 2QU. *Tel:* 01786 447595.  
*Email:* [sarah@diamont.co.uk](mailto:sarah@diamont.co.uk) by 31<sup>st</sup> August 2009