



STIRLING CITY CHOIR

# *Noteworthy*

**THE NEWSLETTER OF STIRLING CITY CHOIR**

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

**January 2007**

## **CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE**

### **2007! A New Year - and a very important one for Stirling City Choir....**

As you all know, on **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> May** we will be performing the **Verdi Requiem** along with St Modan's School Choir. A few weeks ago, in December, we had our first chance to hear a small section of the school choir when they joined us at the Church of the Holy Rude for our Christmas Concert – and they certainly impressed us with the strength and musicality of their singing. Under their music teacher – Mr Graham Boyce – they have already made a good start on learning the Verdi, and are progressing well. We will have to work hard in the coming weeks to match them!

One of the main challenges of the Verdi Requiem is that it is a very big sing – and it therefore presents us with an ideal opportunity to put into action all the techniques taught to us by **Archie Simpson** during his recent visit. I'm sure you'll agree that working with him and his assistants was quite an experience! Above all, the evening was great fun – and it was inspiring to be coached by such a powerful teacher.

I was very impressed by the way the choir co-operated so fully and enthusiastically with Archie – everybody put great individual effort into the Workshop. To make the most of all that we have learned from him, we need to remember to use his techniques consistently in our singing. They will certainly help us to tackle the physical challenge of singing the Verdi – and will ensure that, along with St Modan's, we do achieve and maintain the necessary big sound!

Towards the end of last year, I was delighted to announce that Stirling City Choir now has a new Honorary President – **Lord Brian Gill**. Lord Gill is currently Lord Justice Clerk of Scotland. He been a judge since 1994, and has held many eminent legal positions. More importantly - from our point of view! - he is also an excellent organist and composer, and until recently was Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Royal Academy of Music and Drama.



Eric and the committee recently had the pleasure of meeting Lord Gill and his wife Kate socially. They are both very friendly people with a great interest in our choir. I am sure we can look forward to a mutually enjoyable and beneficial relationship in the years ahead.

Coming up soon, on **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February**, we have our annual **Charity Concert** in St Columba's Church, when we will again be joined by **Marion Wylie** as soloist. All of you who heard Marion last year will remember how superb her voice has become. We are greatly looking forward to the pleasure of hearing her once more.

The Committee intend – with the Choir's approval – to sponsor Marion in her studies at the Guildhall, London for the next two years. The funding will come from the proceeds of half the money raised at our Charity Concert, as laid down in section 9A of our Constitution (the other half going as usual to St Columba's Church, to a charity of their choice).

Finally - a good year's singing to you all!

*Ian Richardson*

### **COMMITTEE CHANGES**

**Kathleen Morison** resigned in October from her post as Soprano Rep. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Kathleen for her lively contributions to committee meetings over the past two sessions, and especially for organising the raffles, which have helped our fund-raising efforts.

With effect from the date of the Charity Concert on 18<sup>th</sup> February, **Sarah Lamont** will be resigning from her post as Concert Secretary, as she awaits the birth of her third child. Sarah has carried out all the many aspects of her duties with seemingly effortless efficiency – but we are well aware of how much hard work she has put in, and of how much time she has given to the choir. We are very grateful indeed to Sarah, and wish her all the best.

### **THINGS WE SING.....Verdi's Requiem**

Giuseppe Verdi (1813 – 1901) completed his Requiem in 1874. It had its first performance in the Church of San Marco in Milan on May 22<sup>nd</sup> of that year, followed shortly by three further performances given at the Opera House of La Scala, Milan. The contrasting nature of these two venues highlights the essential characteristic of the work – a liturgical mass written in an operatic style.



Despite some controversy surrounding its style, the Requiem became an overwhelming success immediately. It was first performed in Britain in the Albert Hall in London in May 1875 – conducted by Verdi himself. It has remained a top favourite choral work with choirs and audiences ever since. Here's to our own performance in May 2007!

### **A LOOK BACK AT THE JENKINS' REQUIEM**

Our performance of the Jenkins' Requiem in the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November seems rather remote now, but thanks are due to all members of Stirling City Choir who took part. The rehearsal the week before, and the day of the actual performance, were both very enjoyable occasions – and we have added some interesting and unusual pieces to our repertoire, as the forthcoming Charity Concert will prove!