



STIRLING CITY CHOIR

Noteworthy

THE NEWSLETTER OF STIRLING CITY CHOIR

www.stirlingcitychoir.org.uk

January 2008

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Best wishes to everyone for 2008! We are now looking forward to our Charity and Spring Concerts – but firstly we should compliment ourselves on the success of our two most recent events...

“COME AND SING THE VERDI REQUIEM!”

This fund-raising venture was a new one for the choir, and its success relied on wide and effective publicity. At first the response was worryingly slow – but eventually it became clear that Verdi’s glorious music was working like a magnet! On Sunday 4th November people travelled to join us from choirs all around Scotland – and even beyond! – to take part in a very relaxed afternoon of rehearsals, followed by a truly joyous evening performance. The event provided us all with a welcome opportunity to sing this thrilling work again. We were well supported by the Glasgow Orchestral Society – and it was a great privilege to hear such accomplished soloists. St Mary’s Church, with its very fine acoustics, was an excellent choice of venue.

Everyone who helped to organise this event deserves thanks, including our choir-members in general for providing the excellent catering. More than enough food was donated - and it was all greatly enjoyed and appreciated, especially by those who had travelled a distance to join us, from the first cup of coffee on arrival to the last bite before hitting the road again!

Our four soloists very generously gave their services for free, but the overheads of running this event – including, for instance, the cost of the hire of a bus for the orchestra, and the costs of hiring the church for eight hours - were relatively high, so our eventual profit worked out at just over £300. The success of the event, however, should not be measured in financial terms alone: hopefully we have made some good contacts, and without a doubt we have raised the profile of Stirling City Choir more widely.



CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Our Christmas Concert on 15th December was very successful in both artistic and financial terms, and resulted in a profit of over £1100. It was a great asset this year to have access to the main organ, played magnificently by Matthew Beetschen - and of course it was a delight to have Marion Wyllie as our soloist once again. The Early Music pieces chosen by Eric worked particularly well in the setting of the Church of the Holy Rude, and our selection from *The Messiah* was greatly enhanced by the contribution of the two excellent trumpeters, David Collins and Anna Cox.

Other highlights in the programme included the pieces written by our Librarian, Kathleen MacPhail, and also the “*Introit*” written by our Honorary President, Lord Gill. After the concert, Lord Gill sent a very appreciative letter, asking for his thanks to be passed on to the choir as follows...

MESSAGE FROM LORD GILL:

“...The concert itself was excellent. The choir produced a first class sound with the support of a magnificent organ and a magnificent acoustic. It was most kind of Eric and the choir to perform a piece of my music. I can assure you it was a lovely experience to hear it sung.

Please convey my thanks and good wishes to the members of the choir. It has become a happy association from my point of view and I look forward to many more happy experiences at choir events.”

CHARITY CONCERT

We are now busy rehearsing for our Charity Concert in St Columba’s Church on Sunday 17th February, when we will be performing a very varied programme of “choral classics” and – unusually – some lighter pieces by Gershwin and George Mitchell. Once again the proceeds of this event will be divided equally, providing a donation to St Columba’s Charity Fund, and sponsorship funding for Marion Wyllie, to assist her in her studies at the Guildhall in London.

Marion will again be our soloist at the concert. Please try to sell as many tickets as possible to ensure that it is a great success!

SPRING CONCERT

The Church of the Holy Rude has now been decided upon as the venue for our Spring Concert on Sunday 20th April. A reminder of the programme: we will perform the Rutter “*Requiem*”, and also Mozart’s “*Solemn Vespers*”. Please start telling your family and friends to put the date in their diaries now!



“THINGS WE SING”.....

Mozart’s “Solemn Vespers”

Mozart’s “Vesperae solennes de confessore”, K339 - written in Salzburg in 1780 – is one of his most popular compositions for the Church. In keeping with the traditions of the Roman liturgy, it includes settings of five psalms, and also a Magnificat. The work is probably best-known for “Laudate Dominum”, the wonderful soprano aria with choral sections.

John Rutter’s “Requiem”

John Rutter wrote his “Requiem” in 1985, and it has since become one of the best-loved and most widely performed choral works of the twentieth century. The work is described as follows: “The texts (in Latin and English) are from the Missa pro Defunctis, The Book of Common Prayer, and the Psalms. The seven sections form an arch-like meditation on the themes of life and death: prayers on behalf of all humanity, psalms, personal prayers to Christ, and in the central Sanctus an affirmation of divine glory.” (OUP)

(Stirling City Choir - as the “Stirling and District Choral Union” - last performed Mozart’s “Solemn Vespers” on 9th April, 1995, and the Rutter Requiem on 18th April, 1999. If you are interested in finding out which works we have previously performed - and the year in which we performed them – then take a look in the “Concerts” section of our website at www.stirlingcitychoir.org.uk/previous.html where you will find a list of all our Spring Concerts dating back to 1951.)

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 by 4th March to Anne Montgomerie. Secretary@Stirlingcitychoir.org.uk