



BROMYARD CHORAL SOCIETY

Spring 2015 Newsletter

Your Committee has met in both December 2014 and in January 2015. We have been very active in trying to organise concerts for the next twelve months and beyond. Please remember that you are welcome to make suggestions to any member of the committee though a formal letter to the Secretary is the easiest way to ensure your views are heard at a committee meeting. Here is our programme as at the start of 2015:

FORTHCOMING CONCERTS/SINGING OPPORTUNITIES

MAHLER Symphony No. 2 "Resurrection" 21st March 2015

Please could as many members as possible support the performance of ~~the~~ **Resurrection** in Tewkesbury Abbey on Saturday 21st March. Please see Chris Balch for an application form to sing in what promises to be an exciting performance.

The four advertised rehearsals, in Ledbury Parish Church, will take place on Thursdays 5th, 12th and 19th March, and then on Friday 20th March, all from 7.30 . 9.30pm. On any view those taking part should expect to attend the last two of those four (ie 19th and 20th March); Richard is still negotiating to avoid BCS members needing to go to Ledbury on 5th and 12th March if he arranges to include the choral part in one or more of our Tuesday evening rehearsals. The ~~dress~~ **dress rehearsal** in Tewkesbury on the afternoon of the concert will also be essential. The 90-minute performance (with no interval) will start at 7.30pm.

STAINER'S Crucifixion – Great Witley Church, Good Friday 3rd April 2015

This is by kind invitation of John Jenkin. The performance will start at 5.00 pm, with a rehearsal in the church earlier that afternoon at a time to be arranged.

SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING for the work of Mike Cresswell on his retirement from Bromyard Town Council: **Saturday 11th April** in St Peter's Church (time TBC).

Mike has asked if we will support the singing of the hymns and also sing Finlandia in memory of his trip to that country with the Choral Society. Please can as many of us as possible support this special event.

SPRING CONCERT 2015: A Concert of Russian and English music St Peter's Church Saturday April 25th at 7.30pm.

AUTUMN 2015: Messiah from Scratch Saturday November 7th. BCS will in fact rehearse for this concert, but we hope to attract other singers from elsewhere for a scratch (at least as far as they are concerned) rehearsal and performance of selected choruses and solos. In the same spirit, anyone wishing to tackle one or more of the solo pieces will be very welcome to contact Richard well ahead of time.

POSSIBILITIES IN THE PIPELINE

SPRING 2016: Elgar's "The Kingdom": We are investigating the possibility of a joint charity fundraising concert of The Kingdom, in the same vein as last November's Verdi Requiem, to take place in Hereford Cathedral. The Kingdom presents the story of the first Pentecost and the plan would be to perform the work on Saturday 7th May 2016, a week before Pentecost, with Hereford Cathedral School, Ledbury Choral Society and additional singers to raise money for Christian Aid. (Christian Aid Week 2016 starts on Pentecost Sunday.)

Autumn 2016 or some time in 2017: Handel's Solomon. The Committee is seeking sponsorship for this before any decision can be made to go ahead, as it will require hiring a professional period-instrument orchestra in addition to soloists; our own internal fundraising is also aimed at boosting the requisite funds: Tickets are now on sale for a Spring Raffle for a Welsh-themed hamper, the draw to take place on Tuesday 3rd March (the nearest rehearsal day to St David's Day). Please support this effort generously.

OTHER MATTERS DISCUSSED

BCS SWEATSHIRTS

As the name of the Society was changed 18 months ago the existing sweatshirts are out of date (as well as somewhat worn in some cases!) Cost estimates are being sought but a price in the range £15-20 seems likely at this stage; are members interested in buying a sweatshirt on this basis?

TWIN TOWN CONCERT

Are members interested in a visit to Normandy for a concert at Bromyard's twin town?

WEBSITE

We need someone to run the website and keep it up to date with news. Offers please.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

We would like to increase the number of Associate members so please see if you can find anyone who supports our work to pay an annual fee of £15.

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ANNUAL DINNER

Finally please remember that our annual dinner is booked for 14th March at the Falcon, 7.00 pm for 7.30. Tickets will go on sale shortly.