

Newsletter: May – June 2013

Rehearsal Arrangements:

- Remaining rehearsal dates will be:
 - Tuesday 28th May
 - Monday 3rd June
 - Monday 10th June
 - Sunday 16th June [final orchestral rehearsal at the Assembly Hall Theatre]
- For the final 2 rehearsals at St John's – June 3rd and June 10th – we intend to arrange the seating in “concert formation”, with names on seats, in order that things go as smoothly as possible on the day of the Concert

Concert Day – June 16th:

- **First and foremost, The Chairman would like to appeal to ALL members to have one more big push to encourage friends, family, neighbours, co-workers and anyone in your “network” to buy tickets, and swell the ranks of the audience on the day!**
- The orchestral rehearsal will start at 10.00a.m. sharp – and you are asked to be ready to take your seats on stage **no later than 09.45a.m.**
 - The Choir is expected to be released by no later than 1.00pm
- You are asked to be ready to go on stage for the actual Concert **no later than 2.45 p.m.**
 - As we did for the *Beethoven* Concert – please form up in the wings in the order in which you will be seated, as directed by your Line Representatives. At a signal, then please file on from both sides simultaneously in this same order.

Folders:

- Please use your black folders to hold the score. For Members who don't have one, Diana Blower will have them at rehearsals on June 3rd and June 10th. New Members will be able to buy folders at the subsidised price of £3: for Members needing a replacement for a lost folder, we will have to charge £5, which is the actual cost to the Society.
- Please note that it is essential that Members leave vocal scores on chairs at the end of the rows of seats before leaving after the concert: since it will be the end of our season there will be no other opportunity to return scores to Diana.

Dress:

- Ladies: long black skirt or black trousers with a black top with long or three-quarter sleeves. Black shoes and black tights. Jewellery to be discrete.
- Men: black dinner jacket and tie – white shirt. Black socks only please.

Pre-concert talk:

Rebecca will be giving a pre-Concert talk in the main auditorium from 2.00pm: although there will be a £3.00 charge [including programme] for the audience, there will be no charge for Members wishing to attend.

Appeal for volunteers!!

- At this Concert, more than ever, we need to find volunteers willing to help “behind-the-scenes”. As well as 6 – 8 programme sellers, on this occasion we will also have to collect payments and distribute programmes to audience members attending the pre-concert talk. Richard Thatcher has kindly offered to take the lead in this, but additional volunteers are sought to help him.
- Please would you consider whether you have friends or family members you could approach? And of course if any Members who are NOT singing at the Concert could offer their service they would be warmly welcomed!

Post-Concert Social event:

- Elena Lewis-Grey has most generously offered to organise an informal garden party at her home to mark the end of our Season – AND also to use the event as a fund-raiser for the Society.
- Elena will offer singers and their guests light refreshments in her garden at 166 Upper Grosvenor Road, from 6.15pm onwards, straight after the end of the Concert.
 - Sandwiches and cakes, together with cold soft drinks and a glass of wine will be served, for which guests will be invited to make a donation of £5 per head.
 - Additional libations of wine will be offered at £3 per glass.
 - Thanks to one of our sponsors, and to Elena's generosity, 100% of the takings will go to the RTWCS funds.
- If any other Members are able to bring something to add to the table, Elena would be most grateful.
- IMPORTANT – Parking:
 - Please note that there is no parking space at number 166, so guests will need to find spaces on Grosvenor Road itself, or on one of the side-roads in the vicinity.
- Members who think they would like to attend are asked to put their names on a list that will be on a table in St John's lobby on rehearsal evenings: however, payment will not be expected until arrival at the party on the day itself.

Other fund-raisers: we would like to urge other members to match Elena's wonderful example, and try to find additional ways to raise funds over the summer, to help meet the costs of our ambitious and exciting November concert programme.

90th Birthday Gift for Guy – our Vice Chairman:

- **Many members will have signed a birthday card, and contributed to a collection, to celebrate Guy's 90th Birthday on May 18th.**
- The donations were most generous, and allowed Roy to buy 8 bottles of very distinguished beverages as our gift.
- As unfortunately Guy was unwell, we weren't able to make the presentation to him at a rehearsal as hoped, but Jill and Roy made the presentation to him at home instead: a picture of the ceremony can be found on our website [under "Gallery"]
- Guy has written a note of thanks to all of you, which has asked to be printed in this Newsletter.

To: the Chairman Roy, the Musical Director Rebecca, and all the members of the Royal Tunbridge Wells Choral Society.

23rd May 2013.

My Dear Friends,

I have been totally overwhelmed and indeed humbled by the generosity and kindness shown to me over my 90th birthday.

Sadly, due to a horrible bug, I was unable to be present to receive the wonderful card and gift of wine which you were so amazingly kind to present to me, and which Roy and Jill later passed over on your behalf.

Quite honestly it is almost beyond me to find words to thank you for your generosity of word and gift, but I hope that you will accept this brief note in that spirit.

Over the last 20 years RTWCS has meant so very much to me. It has provided immense musical challenge and enjoyment and, above all, warm friendship of like-minded and truly wonderful people. Thank you all and may it long prosper.

I am way past my sing-by date but, tenors alas being a scarce resource, I hope to get away with it for a bit longer yet!

*With my affectionate regards to all
Yours sincerely*

Guy