

To our new members

It is lovely to see so many new faces at rehearsals this season. Thank you very much for coming along to give us a try. We hope that you will stay and sing with us but if you do have any problems please do have a word with our Registrar Celia Sumner who will direct you to your line rep for assistance. They are:

Sopranos	Ann Greenfield assisted by Suzie Duke
Altos	Olivia Seaman assisted by Victoria Joyce
Tenors	Peter Norgate assisted by Alan Spencer
Basses	Richard Gosling assisted by Clive Steward

Subs

Many thanks to all of you who have paid up already; over 90% of the current membership has done so within the first month of this new season. And a special thanks to those of you who have 'added value' to your subs by making a small donation. These have mounted up to a staggering extra £600 for the choir funds. Now come on those of you who haven't paid yet!!

Malcolm Beresford

As many of you will know Malcolm, who organises our New Year Dinner, is currently battling against ill health. He is undergoing a course of chemotherapy and in a recent email asked if his thanks could be passed on to those members of the choir, especially the tenors, who have sent him cards and/or visited him. He hopes to be back singing with us again soon. If anyone else would like to get in touch with Malcolm please contact Roy for his email etc.

Scores for the Beethoven concert April 2010

If there is sufficient interest from members wishing to purchase their own copies we will bulk buy the editions of the Beethoven *Choral Fantasia* and *Mass in C* which Richard has selected and these will be available for sale with any profits after carriage etc going to choir funds. More details shortly.

The Armed Man concert

Extra Rehearsal

Our concerts always go better if we have an extra rehearsal on the preceding Friday evening to run through the pieces. Please make a note in your diaries now – Friday 6th November at St John's at the usual time of 7.30pm

On the day

Concert day is Sunday 8th November – Remembrance Sunday – at the Assembly Hall Theatre and so there will be the inevitable problems of vehicular access to the AH. As previously the Kent County Constabulary have agreed to allow vehicles delivering instruments and other heavy items to cross the traffic cordon to drive up to the rear stage door. Car parking will be in the nearby multi storey car park in Crescent Road where the all day charge will still apply.

Please arrive at 9.30am for the rehearsal so that seating can begin at 9.45am and the rehearsal with full orchestra and soloists can start promptly at 10.00am. Bring a flask of tea/coffee if you need refreshment beforehand or during the break as the AH is unable to provide this facility for us.



The rehearsal should finish at about 1.00pm so you may leave and then reassemble at 2.45pm ready to go onstage for a 3.00pm start to the concert. The Mayor has been invited as usual and invitations are going out to local multifaith church leaders.

Dress

Ladies: black tops – three quarter or full length sleeves with black trousers or long black skirt.

Gentlemen: black open necked shirts with black suit.

Changing rooms for the choir, and separate rooms for the soloists, will be available back stage.

If you want to take a bottle of water on stage with you please make sure it is covered in black.

Ticket sales

These are going well and if you know you want to purchase more please do so **now** so that the Society can benefit from the full face value. Once the tickets are passed to the Assembly Hall box office they take a percentage as commission. For the first time tickets are also available via the Assembly Hall website and early reports suggest there has been a significant uptake.

Morrisons' Stars

At the end of last month the choir was asked if it could supply a small group of members to sing carols as part of the Christmas advertisement being filmed in Tunbridge Wells for the food supermarket chain Morrisons. After auditions four singers were selected : Liz Crothall (soprano), Victoria Joyce (alto), Toby Thompson (tenor) and Gerald Chew (bass). With a couple of film extras they sang for a few seconds, accompanied by the Wadhurst band, who are incidentally playing for us at our Christmas concert, whilst Richard Hammond from Top Gear pushed an empty trolley past them. Artificial snowflakes fell on them and a street corner was given the full Christmas treatment. This was only one segment of a much longer advert but took about 8 hours of rehearsing, standing around and finally filming, all for £130 per head, which they kindly donated to choir funds. Thanks very much to our long suffering colleagues for representing RTWCS with such enthusiasm!!



The Met Office gets it wrong AGAIN!



Fans clamouring for autographs

Christmas Music

Our Christmas Concert will be held at Goudhurst Church on Sunday 13th December so please start canvassing your family and friends for early ticket sales, though of course they will be available on the door. The Wadhurst Brass Band will accompany our singing of family carols with audience participation and will also play their own music. We will be singing Vaughan Williams' *Fantasia on Christmas Carols* and Buxtehude's *Little Newborn Jesus Child* as choir pieces which we will start to rehearse immediately after *The Armed Man* concert.

Traditionally we have entertained residents at two local retirement homes – Rossett Holt and Halliwell – with a short carol sing. Helen MacNab has very kindly arranged this for the evening of Monday 14th December as there are no choir rehearsals after the Christmas Concert until the New Year and we will shortly be looking for volunteers for this very worthwhile activity.



The stars accept their Oscars