

Royal Tunbridge Wells  
**CHORAL**  
**SOCIETY**

**Newsletter: October 2013**

**A warm welcome to New Members:**

- We are delighted that we are able to welcome about a dozen new Members at the start of the season, and hope they will enjoy singing with us. If they have any questions or concerns, the Line Representatives for their voice section – or any Committee Member – will be very happy to talk to them.

**Resources for “note-bashing”**

- It may be helpful for new and existing Members alike to be reminded that there are quite cheap, and even free, web-based resources for learning each voice part – which can help make rehearsal time even more productive:
  - The following links lead to web-sites where you can buy [or in the case of *Cyberbass* access for free] either CD’s of your own voice-part, or a “streamed” version of the same thing [which can be downloaded direct to your own PC or lap-top].
    - <http://www.choraline.com> [click on the “For Singers” tab]
    - <http://www.cyberbass.com> [click on “Miscellaneous Works”]
  - Details of other free resources can be found on our own web-site: see the following link:  
<http://www.rtwcs.org.uk/members/notices.html#other>
- **Membership Subs:**
  - Elena our Treasurer estimates that about 50% of Members have not yet paid their Subs to her [whole year – or just the 1<sup>st</sup> half], and she will be delighted to receive cheques from Members as soon as possible.
  - We would be grateful if Members will also let Elena have *Gift Aid* forms, which increase the value of your subscription to the Society at no cost at all to you.

**November 10<sup>th</sup> Concert:**

- **TICKET SALES:**
  - As Members will be aware, our November Concert is especially ambitious, so it is important that we have a larger than normal audience to help defray the extra costs of staging it.
  - So far ticket sales by Members have fallen well short of what we need to achieve, and everyone is asked to promote the concert even more enthusiastically to family, friends, neighbours and work colleagues – in order to achieve as nearly as possible a “full house” on the day. Please remember that each ticket sold by our own Members brings in 15% more money to the Society than the same ticket sold via the Assembly Hall Theatre Box Office – who withhold a big commission on their ticket sales! After October 14<sup>th</sup> most tickets have to be passed to the Box Office, so we urge everyone to use these last 2 rehearsals to buy their tickets.
  - The Chairman reminds everyone that he will select a special bottle of wine to be awarded to the Member who has sold the most tickets!
- **Detailed Arrangements:**
  - There will be NO extra rehearsal on the Friday prior to the day of the Concert.
  - “Dress Rehearsal” on the morning of the Concert will begin at 10.00 am prompt: please take your seats no later than 09.45 am
  - We recognise that we need to be more professional in both our “sits ‘n’ stands” – and in moving onto and off the stage. Nearer the time Rebecca, with the help of our Line Representatives, will “drill” us in these areas.
  - **Concert Dress:**
    - Ladies: black skirts or trousers, black long-sleeved tops; if worn, jewellery must be unobtrusive.

- Men: dinner jackets or dark lounge suits, black bow tie, white shirts.
- Singers are asked to ensure that they use our standard-issue black music-folders on the day: new Members can get these from Diana Blower [our Librarian] at a subsidised price of £3. Members who need to replace their folders will be asked to pay our own full cost of £5.
- As usual at our concerts on Remembrance Day, all singers are asked to please wear a Poppy.
- **Pre-Concert Talk:**
  - Rebecca will be giving a Pre-Concert talk starting at 2.00pm.
  - Members are of course encouraged to be there for the talk:
    - However, as we are not making a charge for the Talk [it's included in the ticket price] more of the audience are likely to attend than previously, and those with tickets in the Stalls will naturally expect to take the seats they have booked during the talk.
    - Members are therefore asked not to take a seat until very shortly before the start of the talk, and to be as tactful as possible in doing so, to avoid any audience Members feeling that they have been displaced from their rightful seat locations.
  - We will need Stewards for the Talk, who will also need to sell programmes – at an earlier time than usual. Volunteers are needed to act in this role – in addition to our usual need for programme sellers from among family and friends who will NOT be singing in the Concert.
    - Will those willing to help please give names to Trevor HURRELL and/or use the sign-up sheet that will be on display at rehearsals.

## Christmas 2013:

### Traditional Christmas Concert – SATURDAY December 14<sup>th</sup>:

- The main Christmas event will be our traditional Concert at 6.30pm in St Mary's Parish Church in Goudhurst.
  - Full details of arrangements will be announced in our next *Newsletter*, but please note that the date is a **Saturday**, rather than a Sunday, as in prior years.

### Other "Christmas" Events:

- **John Lewis at Home Christmas Marketing Event: November 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>.**
  - *John Lewis at Home Tunbridge Wells* has become one of our corporate Sponsors, and as part of that arrangement a small group of Members will sing Christmas Music in their TW store in the afternoons of November 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> – to provide animation at their major Christmas Marketing Event. More male voices needed please!
- **Carols for Rosset Holt and Halliwell: Monday December 16<sup>th</sup> 2013**
  - Once again this season we will be singing Carols to the residents of these 2 Care Homes in Tunbridge Wells – as we have done for many years now.
  - Nearer the time Helen McNab, who kindly organises the events, will be asking for volunteer singers for the evening.
- **Christmas Eve at Hotel du Vin:**
  - The *Hotel du Vin* has been a loyal corporate Sponsor of the Society for several years now, and we have always had a small group of singers to perform favourite Carols in the hotel foyer, around the Christmas Tree, on Christmas Eve.
  - As in previous years, Roland Millar has kindly agreed to lead us on this occasion, and we are most grateful to him.

## Looking ahead to other Events:

### Quiz Evening: October 26<sup>th</sup>:

- Details and booking slips for the *Quiz Evening with Fish 'n' Chip Supper* have already been widely circulated.
- Although we have had quite a good response, we can still accommodate approx 50 more entries – and would of course like to fill the Hall if possible.
- As well as having an evening of fun, the aim of the event is also to raise funds for the Society, and we would like to encourage you to bring along as many non-Members amongst your friends and family as possible.
- You are welcome either to book tables of 6 .....or to sign up as individuals or smaller groups, whom we can arrange into groups of 6 players when you arrive on the night.
- PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING PEN/PENCILS and SCRAP PAPER
- Booking slips to Guy Huntrods or to Trevor Hurrell .....who can also answer any questions you may have.
- There will be a licensed bar!!

### Annual Dinner:

- The Society has usually organised an **Annual Dinner** early in the New Year, and it will soon be time to start planning for January 2014.
- Elena Lewis-Gray has once again offered to take charge of arrangements, but we need to find out how many Members are likely to want to take part before we go any further.
- Roy will ask for feedback at one of our rehearsals, so may we invite Members to give thought to the matter now.

## Progress Report on Fund Raising:

In our *Start of Season Newsletter* both Roy and Rebecca did their best to encourage all Members to devise and organise fund-raising events to help us fulfil the ambitious plans we have for the Society's future.

There has been an encouraging initial response, and this is the right moment to express a very heart-felt vote of thanks to the following Members and friends who have responded to the call and taken it upon themselves to organise a variety of successful fund-raisers:

- Olivia Seaman and Muriel Thatcher, who organised a delightful Summer Tea Party in Olivia's garden
- Margaret Butcher, who worked hard at home-baking and contributed the proceeds to the Society's funds
- Mr and Mrs William Rutherford, who responded to Elena Lewis-Grey's persuasive advocacy, and invited us to hold a Garden Party in the delightful surroundings of their gardens at *Hunthill House*.

Still to come next term are what will surely prove a spell-binding talk by Martin Williams, one of our Bass members, about his personal involvement in the notorious 1979 Hostage-taking events in Teheran .....and a piano recital by Anthony, when he will delight us by playing his own choice of pieces [and on this occasion without having to be stopped every 30 seconds!]

Dates and more details for these events will be announced before long.

**BUT** in spite of this encouraging start to our fund-raising programme, we need to look forward to further initiatives, and would like to ask once again everyone to think about what they personally can undertake.

Please take to heart the Chairman's words in August when he wrote:

*"Your Committee Members are doing their best in this respect but it is vital that all Members try to do their part."*