



A very warm welcome to all members of our audience to the second concert of our 101st Season.

WILMARC ELLMAN

We are very sad that our rehearsal accompanist, Wilmarc Ellman, has decided that the time has come to relinquish his post as our resident one-man orchestra. Rehearsals won't be the same without him.

Wilmarc was born and brought up under the apartheid regime in South Africa, in Heidelberg in the Cape Province. His musical ability was noted and encouraged. He won competitions and bursaries, but, although he benefited from the value of the prizes he was not able to attend some of the award ceremonies as they were held in 'whites only' venues. As a student at the University of Cape Town he gained an LRSM in piano performance, an LTCL in musicianship teaching and graduated in 1970 with distinction for the BMus degree. He also won the final year medal as the top graduate in the music faculty.

In 1972 he gained a scholarship to King's College, London, for postgraduate study. Here, one sunny November Lord Mayor's Day, he discovered the hard way that in England a shining sun does not necessarily make it hot! On completing his course Wilmarc decided to remain in England and took his first teaching post at Holmewood House School. His first contact with the RTWCS was when he brought a choir of boys from that school to take part in our carol concert. Since then Wilmarc has taught in several schools in the area, including three years at the Beacon School, Crowborough. He currently teaches at Meopham School near Gravesend.

In 1977 he became an ARCO and local churches have benefited from his skill as an organist - St Paul's, Rusthall and now St Thomas's, Southborough.

In 1976 Wilmarc married Sue who sings in our soprano section and they have two musical children. They were unable to visit Wilmarc's family in South Africa until 1993 as they would have been liable to arrest due to the law on mixed marriages.

For 25 years the Society has tested Wilmarc's skill and patience. He has been accompanist, organist, orchestral keyboard player, soloist, emergency choir master, boost to the tenor line when not required elsewhere and, above all, a very loyal friend. We thank him whole-heartedly for the enormous contribution he has made to the Society's progress and success. We wish him well in all his future activities. May our long-standing friendship long continue.

THE MESSIAH

Those who were in the large audience at our performance of *Messiah* will, we hope, have enjoyed the performance by the Choir and small chamber orchestra. It is a work which appeals to a wide audience and we are always pleased, as is indeed our Treasurer, Roy Dunstall, to see a full house! However, we cannot always sing works which are as well known as *Messiah*, but we hope that our regular audiences will enjoy hearing works less familiar or even new to them.

We are always happy to have feedback from the audience and if you have any comments on the programmes we put on, or would like to make any suggestions for future performances, they will be put to our hard-working Committee. There are often reasons why certain works cannot be performed - usually because of the cost of musicians required and often because of their unsuitability to the character of the Society.

CAROL CONCERT

This was our first Carol Concert under the direction of Richard Jenkinson, and it proved to be a most enjoyable and successful event, with a full church. The audience and performers left the Church with the very familiar tunes used in Richard Jenkinson's own Christmas Medley ringing in their ears!

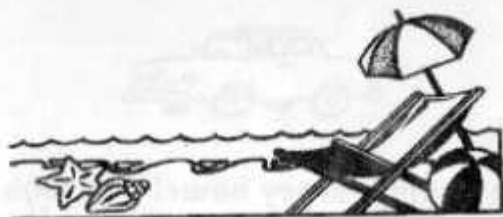
SUMMER CONCERT - Saturday, 2nd July at 7.30 pm

As reported in our concert programme, this summer we are giving an additional concert. Approximately half our members will be singing and the numbers will be augmented by singers from other choirs, or those who would like to join us for this one event. There may be singers who would like to take part, with a view to joining us as members for our next Season, 2005-6.

The works to be performed are *Chichester Psalms* by Leonard Bernstein, and *Requiem* by John Rutter. There will be 6 rehearsals and the works will be performed at a concert on Saturday 2nd July at 7.30 pm in Vale Royal Church, Tunbridge Wells. If you are interested in taking part please contact Sheila Jones (01892 531232) or Jane Lewis (01892 533809). If you would like tickets for the concert please telephone Roy Dunstall (01580 211814).

For details of how to join the choir for their next Season, please ring Celia Sumner (01892 534814) or Helen MacNab (01892 526434). We are always happy to welcome new members, and are particularly anxious to attract more tenors and sopranos.

We wish you all a very happy Summer



PATRONS

We are very grateful to our patrons for their support - why not become a Patron, if you are not one already? You may be a regular supporter of our concerts and would like to contribute to the continued success of the Choir by becoming a Patron. If you would like further information about becoming a Patron, please fill in the slip below and send it to our Treasurer. Help such as this does make a difference to our concert budgeting and to our choice of repertoire and is greatly valued.

We are also very interested to hear from anyone who is in a position to initiate sponsorship of any of our concerts, in whole or part, or to place an advertisement in our programmes.

Look on our website for more details: www.rtwcs.org.uk

Please send me details of how to become a Patron of the Choral Society or sponsor for the Society's Concerts or Programmes:

Name

Address

.....

Postcode Tel. No.

Please return to Roy Dunstall, Moorfield, Chequers Road, Goudhurst, Kent
TN17 1DL



Finally, have a safe journey home! We look forward to seeing you at our next concert.