



EVENTS TO COME



A MESSAGE FROM CHARLIE



THE CHORAL

We are back singing!

Loud and long. What a relief to be out in numbers, singing both familiar and new repertoire. After several well attended and enjoyable sessions at St Ninian's, it feels as though we haven't been away. The wine has been handed out to the 100 per cent attendees from last year and work has begun in earnest. Julian's enthusiasm has been infectious and the sessions on vocal technique in



Soon to be rehearsing in the Villa?

the Bruckner, led by Mandy have been superb; they promise to take us up a level. All in all, we have had a very hopeful start to what is going to be a busy winter for us all. Then, just recently, Charlie shared the news of Julian's illness. This will have come as a shock to everyone and our best wishes are of course with Julian and Hilary. As Charlie said, the committee is determined to support Julian in a range of ways to ensure that this is a special year - he has written more on this below.

The mid - October rehearsal was memorable for other reasons of course and from my place in the baritones it felt as though everyone was in fine voice throughout whilst we were being filmed.

This edition has had to be revised several times to keep up with the news, and in the last week we have all been saddened by the loss of much loved a fellow singer Val Kirkland. As I write this, arrangements are being finalised for a number of us to sing Locus Iste at her funeral. Our thoughts are with Graham and the family at this time.

A message from the Chairman

"The 2020/21 season for the Choir promises to be the busiest ever with two planned concerts and then a large informal "Sing" in the summer. I know we are all up for this as the enthusiasm is so

obvious at our rehearsals and this enthusiasm is now being widened with the Train Supper in December and other ideas being worked on by the Events Sub-Committee. An enormous “thank you” to our strengthened Committee for making it possible to put on all of these events and more particularly in giving added support to Julian who has so willingly and happily taken on a daunting programme at a very difficult time for him. I know that we are all completely supportive of Julian and we shall all do our utmost to make it all worthwhile for him.

There is more from Charlie on Page 4.

Do not believe everything you read!

Despite the best efforts of new Committee member Belinda Pilling, a recent article about IOMCS to appear in the Manx Independent was peppered with inaccuracies. The intention was simply to raise awareness of our choir and to celebrate the contribution of Dylis Watson who recently retired from singing with us along with husband Malcolm. The correct appreciation is printed below, and which Belinda kindly wrote in full for them.

Somehow through the machinations of sub editing, printers and goodness knows what else there resulted a piece of fiction suitable for the News Quiz or Have I Got News For You. Who on earth would believe that Isle of Man Choral Society was going to perform a world premiere of Beethoven’s previously, undiscovered, unheard of, choral version of his Seventh Symphony! For the record - we are not!

Also for the record our founding conductor had nothing to do with a well known removal firm.(so far as we know).

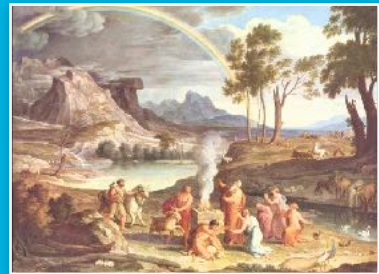
We will continue to try to publicise events of course but we may need to try to gain a little editorial influence. Don't hold your breath!

A tribute to Dylis

Belinda wrote:

The Isle of Man Choral Society bade a fond farewell to one of their longest serving members Dylis Watson who has decided after 40 years to retire from singing with the choir. Dylis

YouTube links.



There are of course many You Tube links to pieces we are doing with the two shown here being the versions we have already had circulated.

Another worthy example would be the Beethoven Choral Fantasia (Fantasy on YouTube) played by Martha Argerich with Seiji Ozawa conducting.

Sung in German, it is an inspirational version, well worth watching, it makes you sense just how good Judith is as well.



joined the choir (then known as the Isle of Man Teachers' Choir) at its inception in 1979. During that period Dylis travelled abroad with the choir and her expertise as a fluent German speaker (Dylis taught languages at Ballakermeen High School) was invaluable. In 2002 Alan Pickard retired and Dylis was a founding member of the committee to take the choir forward. Dylis' attention to detail, dedication, enthusiasm and commitment made her a valuable member of the committee for many years. She has an extensive collection of photos and newspaper articles (mostly written by herself) of the choir performances; she will be missed by all, especially the 2nd Sopranos. We all wish her well in her retirement and hope she continues to enjoy the choir's performances for many more years.

The Newsletter

It is intended to produce a regular update including news and articles with about four copies a year. There will be a mix of news about members, concerts and events as well as some articles about the music we are working on and performing. Contributions can be in the form of articles, memories photographs, interviews or sharing information about upcoming events Ed Coates will collate and edit the next few editions and if it is well received, we will continue and indeed develop it based on feedback. Do feel free to contribute items by email to Ed at Edmund.j@live.com, or to Brian.

Sub committee news and events

There is a lot of activity and planning going on with Rosie, Gloria, Carole and Bill cracking on with new ideas and events. They set up the pre - season get together at St Andrews that was such a success. They run a Facebook Group called IOMCS Events which is available for choir members and will provide information about any events of interest including those we run and those further afield that may be of interest.

Unfortunately, due to Covid, events similar to the New York and Berlin trips, or independent events such as the Verdi Requiem at the Albert Hall will not be happening anytime soon. As an alternative, planning is already underway to organise some choral events in the Isle of Man and the fact that we are lucky enough to be able to continue singing together here, makes it even more special.

Events planned

Come and join us to sing; the subcommittee is organising a "Come Sing" event. Initially this was going to be held on Good Friday 2021 singing Stainer's Crucifixion, but we discovered the

A Big Sing

Dinner on the train

Your ideas?

potential clash with "The Big Sing" being organised at Peel Cathedral for the following day. (Watch this space and support that event!). In consequence they decided to start planning a summer singing eventdate and venue to be confirmed but late June and Messiah are the possibilities. This will be an open to other choirs event based upon a day's rehearsal and performance.

Christmas Party Train

A carriage has been booked on the Christmas Party Train on

Friday the 4th December. The evening will include the train ride to Castletown and return to Douglas in the Pulman car, a three course meal and a glass of prosecco. There is also a bar on the train. This has proved a popular choice and there are now no places left, unless you fancy driving out to Keristal to watch us steam past. I am sure you will get a cheery wave!

.....and recently the social evening in September;

More than a hundred members, potential members and friends enjoyed the social evening at St Andrew's church. The evening was a super precursor to the 2020/2021 singing season. We were very very lucky to be entertained superbly and comically by Karen Elliot accompanied by her other half. A huge thanks goes to Claire Quayle and Ann Duggan for the wonderful food....and wasn't that a wonderful piece composed by Alisons daughter and premiered by us?



Any other ideas are always welcome ... so please contact any of the subcommittee:

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A last word from Charlie.

Like all of you, I guess, I find singing brings great pleasure and is the most perfect means of being able to put the stresses and strains of everyday life to one side. There can't be any other form of relaxation where you need to totally de-clutter the brain to bring the concentration which is needed to achieve the benefits of making music. I came back to "proper" music in my mid twenties when I was asked to join firstly the Glenfaba Chorale and then, having experienced in the audience the excitement of Carmina Burana in the Villa in the early eighties with the Youth Choir and the then Teachers' Choir, I made the leap to singing Choral Music. I remain in both Choirs today and love the music and the social interaction with fellow members. I was privileged to have been brought up in an immediate and extended family where "proper" singing was the bedrock of family life, together with a social life centred on the Methodist Chapel where I instinctively learnt the bass line to a large section of the Methodist Hymn Book. When I was a teenager I felt that this was all old hat and like many of us, I am sure, I was lured into the a swinging Sixties and the joys that it brought and Tamla Motown was my thing , much to the dismay of my parents. But as time moved on I was lured back to what was clearly in my DNA. I still like Tamla Motown

I am pleased to say!