



FRIENDS OF ROCHESTER CHORAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER NUMBER 11 ... 15 February 2012

Dear Friend

As a New Year resolution, I counted the number of newsletters I'd sent since becoming Friends' Secretary two years ago and found that the last one was the tenth (and not the sixth as stated last November). In it, I published the 2012 concert programme as far as this summer and, as little of note has happened since, I hope you'll excuse me if this one is more "chatty" than usual.

If you attended November's *The Creation* you will already know what an outstanding performance it was. Roger Sayer has inspired the Choral Society to aspire to new standards of excellence and Gavin Williams is acting as accompanist, after the departure of Dan Soper, who had served us so well. Roger now takes the Tuesday rehearsals with humour and great concentration, so we all feel tired but elated at the end. This arrangement is working well and further helps him to "sprinkle the magic dust" on the night, that I've always claimed turns a good performance into a great one. It also inspires the Rochester Sinfonietta whose members turn in excellent performances after only one rehearsal on the day (because we can't afford to engage them for two). The Society's ability to support professional musicians as well as please the music-loving public is a vital part of our mission as amateur singers and I hope goes towards repaying your support.

As announced, the next concert, on 24 March, is in two parts. We will sing the delightfully harmonious *Sleep* and *Lux Arumque* by Eric Whitacre, the young American composer who is rapidly gaining popularity, Mendelssohn's *Hear My Prayer* incorporating *Oh for the Wings of a Dove* and Bruckner's lovely but demanding Gradual *Christus Factus Est*. Then, after the interval, we will complete the concert accompanied by guest singers who will have previously rehearsed Stainer's *The Crucifixion*. Be assured that Roger will ensure a performance to surpass the standard usually associated with "Come and Sing" concerts.

I enclose one printed flyer for Friends who are not on e-mail, plus two simpler versions that I have designed as an e-mail attachment. Either way, I hope you will encourage your friends to come as for any other concert, in good time for the 7pm start. (It is thought, perhaps, the printed flier seemed only for guest singers). I

again publish the future programme from the RCS website, so please note the dates in your diary. And, finally, please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any ideas, comments or complaints. It's good to keep in touch.

With thanks for your support and with warm good wishes

Yours sincerely

Malcolm

Spring Concert 2012 including a Come & Sing of Stainer's The Crucifixion

Saturday 24th March 2012

- Come & Sing rehearsal, 4.30 - 6 pm
- RCS concert performance of the first half of the programme, 7 pm
- Come & Sing Stainer's Crucifixion, after the interval

Whitacre: Lux Aurumque

Whitacre: Sleep

Mendelssohn: Hear my Prayer

Bruckner: Christus Factus est

Come & Sing Stainer: The Crucifixion (Novello ed.)

Christine Hubbard, Soprano

Michael Jamieson Smith, Tenor

James Wilkinson, Bass

Scott Farrell, Organ

Conducted and directed by Roger Sayer

Tickets: £18 (front of nave), £14 (rear of nave), £7 (unreserved - mostly in aisles), £3 (for school children and students in full-time education - any seat). RCS Friends save £5 off the front-nave seats and £3 off any other.

Come & Sing tickets are £14 and they include a seat in the audience for the first half of the concert.

Elijah

Saturday 23rd June 2012 Mendelssohn: Elijah With the Rochester Sinfonietta. Conducted by Roger Sayer

Tickets: £18 (front of nave), £14 (rear of nave), £7 (unreserved - mostly in aisles), £3 (for school children and students in full-time education - any seat). RCS Friends save £5 off the front-nave seats and £3 off any other.

Saturday 3rd November 2012: Our *Premiere* concert

Fanfare for the Common Man: Copland

I was Glad: Parry

Adagio for Strings: Barber

Te Deum: Hawes **U.K. Premiere**

Blest Pair of Sirens: Parry

Organ Sonata for Two Organists: Briggs **World Premiere**

Roger Sayer and Charles Andrews, Organists

Coronation Te Deum: Walton Conducted by Roger Sayer and Patrick Hawes

March/April 2013 Berlioz Te Deum

With the Rochester Sinfonietta. Conducted by Roger Sayer

July 2013 Come and Sing Verdi Requiem

Requiem: Verdi

Conducted by Roger Sayer *Venue: to be arranged*