



FRIENDS OF ROCHESTER CHORAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER NUMBER 12 ... 30 March 2012

Dear Friend

As I've bought in some extra stamps at the current price and for other reasons, I've decided to write to you in the old-fashioned way (except for my obligatory typing) and, if I'm not trying your patience, to expand a little. After all, we are friends.

Those who managed to attend (or take part in) last Saturday's concert would no doubt agree that it was a stunner. Roger Sayer was very pleased, especially with the Bruckner motet and he praised the singing generally. What also impressed him was how well the combined choir, with guests who'd had only one rehearsal, sang the *Stainer Crucifixion* together. It augurs well for next year's proposed concert as part of Medway's Festival, where we will invite participation in the Verdi Requiem.

There was one amusing thing. In the little flier I sent you, instead of Whitacre's *Lux Aurumque* (light and gold) I wrote *Lux Arumque* (light and lilies). Perhaps they would be a little early for a March concert but at least they herald the summer. I only had the benefit of a single year's study of Latin, 64 years ago, and therefore rely on Mairi to sort me out.

Less happily, one Friend had difficulty in persuading a Cathedral steward to part with a complimentary programme. I hope this hasn't been a general problem but I will institute a solution which will affect us all (which is why I mention it). I realise that if I were a *proper* secretary, I would give receipts for subscriptions paid. So I am including a little card (stating a renewal date except for Life Friends) for that purpose. It could also be shown should a question arise about any of the privileges that Friends enjoy. I know we don't want too much formality but it would seem to me to be a good move. I enclose your card. If you'd like to comment, please write phone or e-mail.

Before going further, I'd like to tell you more about our next concert in the Cathedral: Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, on Saturday 23rd June, at what is now the usual time of 7 pm. (In case you weren't aware, the change from 7.30 was made to accommodate the Vergers'



working hours. We have a lot to thank them for all the support they give us, not least in the erection and storing of the concert staging). As you know, *Elijah* is a great 'sing' and should prove popular so please note the date in your diary.

The work was first performed in Birmingham Town Hall on 26th August 1846, the year before the composer died in Leipzig, aged only 48. It was an immediate success and it's good to know that it's just as popular today.

As *Elijah* went to heaven in a Whirlwind, I thought you might like to see the Westland S-55 Whirlwind making its way skywards. It was good at air-sea rescue but I don't think it was really meant for prophets.

If I might indulge in further whimsy, you might recall that my little booklet of nonsense verse, a few years ago, raised the best part of £1,000 towards the concert staging (and is now out-of-print). But I still compose the odd "pome" as an antidote to literature and I have sent my latest ones to friends and family. So please excuse me if I don't leave you out.

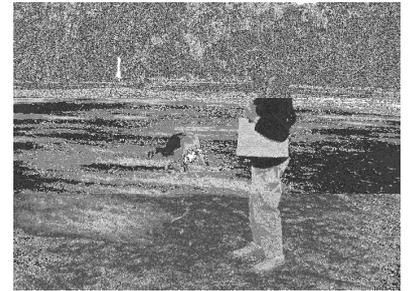
The first is called *The Euro explained* and goes like this:

Europe's common currency is going up the flue
And the leaders of the Eurozone are wondering what to do
But the future of the Eurozone ought not to make them blue
'Cause the Euro's just a wallaby; it's a kind of kangaroo.

Yes, it's *Macropus Robustus* if you find it in a zoo
For the Euro is a wallaby; it's a kind of kangaroo.

They could have looked elsewhere in Oz, and found an E.M.U.
(European Monetary Unit for the likes of me and you)

But, no, they've chosen Euro, so I'll have to tell them true
The Euro is a wallaby; it's a kind of kangaroo.



Mairi and a Euro in Cleland Wildlife Park, Adelaide, S Australia, 2 August 2005

COINS

Here are two pomes written for Mairi's birthday. The first (but not the second) can be sung to the tune of the familiar nursery rhyme.

Sing a song o' sixpence?
If that be the price
Singing two-pee-and-a-half
Wouldn't sound as nice
Singing of three Euro-cents
Would be far too funny
Let's just accept that common sense
Has taken leave of money.

Listen, friend, if you should chance
To give your coins a second glance
(Knowing they're but rarely seen
Before they feed a slot machine)
Ten-to-the-pound was once the florin
But now the lot of them seem foreign
Except one face: the one I mean
That still, thank God, portrays The Queen.

That's probably enough for one newsletter. Please look out for the concert fliers when they become available and do keep telling your friends and relations about the concerts. Your support is so valuable and is helping the Society to perform really well, under Roger Sayer's baton and with Gavin Williams' tutelage. The singers are working hard in a convivial atmosphere, so friendship does play a key role.

As you probably know, you can download the year's concert programme from the website. The latest list is enclosed, with your membership card-cum-receipt.

As the card is personal, duet members get one each which also applies to life members so we only need two designs of card. I will notify the RCS Committee of this development and make other suggestions about briefing the Cathedral Stewards.

I wish you a happy Easter and good health and happy concert-going for the rest of 2012.

Yours sincerely

Malcolm

Elijah

Saturday 23rd June 2012

Mendelssohn: Elijah

With the Rochester Sinfonietta

Conducted by Roger Sayer

Rochester Cathedral

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.

Buy your tickets online!

Please contact Rosemary Clemence - email: tickets@rochesterchoral.co.uk or
telephone: 01634 401049 - for tickets.

Our *Premiere* concert

Saturday 3rd November 2012

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

Rochester Cathedral

Berlioz Te Deum

March / April 2013

Te Deum: Berlioz

With the Rochester Sinfonietta

Conducted by Roger Sayer

Rochester Cathedral

Come and Sing Verdi Requiem

July 2013

Requiem: Verdi

Conducted by Roger Sayer

Venue: to be arranged
