

Tiptree Choral Society Newsletter No. 29

Making music together since 1945

Welcome to the summer! The scent of barbeques seems to infuse the air at this time of year, doesn't it, as everyone moves outside to enjoy the sunshine and those long, warm, light evenings. I always associated light evenings with the school summer holidays; it's only now I am retired that I realise they actually come a month earlier!!

Forthcoming Concert: helpers needed!



Prom in the Barn is now only two weeks away and as Jan reported last week that half the tickets are already sold, it looks set to be an enjoyable and successful evening.

As most of you will remember, helpers are needed to set up Katie and Jimmy's barn prior to the rehearsal and to take decorations down after the concert, so if you can spare some time to come and help inflate and hang balloons and streamers and put up some bunting and stay to take them down afterwards it would be greatly appreciated. We usually start gathering there from midday so please come and help out if you can – you are needed! For those who wish to stay between rehearsal and concert, Katie has once again kindly offered her house for us to change in. Taking down is quicker and with lots of willing hands, we have previously managed it in less than half an hour. One bonus is the burger man is usually available for

both: up and running early if you require tea and selling off food if you need feeding after the concert!

Our rehearsal starts at 3:00pm for singers and Band. We will stand to sing but there is no seating so don't forget to bring your own chair for the in between times!

Concert wear is long (ankle or floor length) colourful skirts, dresses or trousers for ladies with flat or low, broad-heeled shoes please – narrow heels can get caught and will damage the barn's drying floor. Gentlemen please note a change from previous years: black shirts and trousers as other concerts – you are going to be an even better foil for the ladies than usual!!

Gates open at 6:00pm and the concert starts at 7:00pm. Based on previous experience, we expect a good number of people to arrive early. Parking is in the field over the road as before and Katie and Jimmy have arranged some car parking attendants but need a few more.

Please could four people volunteer to help or be on standby in case – maybe partners of choir members would be able to help out? Katie and Jimmy can supply hi-vis vests. Names to Katie or to me please. Thankyou!



Having made the transition at our last concert from plastic cups to glasses for refreshments, we are reverting back to plastic for the Barn – much safer all round! Many thanks to John Markham for agreeing to run the 'Bar' for us and to Bob and Judith for sorting out the wine.

Raffle?

Would anyone like to run a raffle at the Barn? We could donate prizes between us if someone would take on the organisation. Just let me know if you would like to do it.

Social Event: 3rd July 2014

I told you to watch this space and here it is!!



As we have a week between the concert and the AGM, we have arranged a social event for us all to enjoy that may also act as a small fund raiser. Instead of meeting in the church as we usually do for rehearsals, we will meet in the URC hall where Malcolm has offered to do one of his 'parlours' for us while we enjoy a fish and chip supper! The event is open to choir

members and their families and friends and for £10 a head we will receive first class entertainment and a fish and chip supper plus soft drink. We hope to be packed out and have permission to put up a marquee on the grass outside the French doors so that we can spill outside. Please support this one-off event!! We need to know numbers for the fish and chips so please come and let me know if you are coming.



AGM: 10th July 2014

We are a committee led Society: that means that no one person makes decisions, rather things are discussed, both with members and in committee, and a consensus arrived at, which I'm sure we all believe is a healthy way to do things. At the time of writing, it looks as though there may be vacancies to be filled as people leave the committee at the end of term so I thought this would be opportune moment to briefly outline the role the current committee plays.

Meetings are roughly half termly and time limited to the hour before rehearsal on a Thursday.

The musical director is of course responsible for the choice of music the choir sings; in addition, there are various 'jobs' to do:

- ✚ the secretary makes contacts, books soloists and burger vans, sends emails and takes minutes at meetings
- ✚ the treasurer keeps track of the Society's money in a transparent way – there is now a very clear system - and keeps us informed of our financial position
- ✚ the librarian hires and orders music for us, stores music we own and keeps a record of our resources
- ✚ publicity advertises and promotes our concerts (within an agreed budget) and takes pre bookings
- ✚ the chairman is a 'frontsman' -chairs meetings, helps to arrange and is involved in the Society's activities, communicates between all parties and is a general support where needed, keeps a record of membership in conjunction with the membership secretary and produces concert programmes
- ✚ the vice chair is the second line of support , stands in for the chairman when necessary and also organises

ticket sales and keeps account of them, maintains (and tries to add to) the Society's list of sponsors, acts as main contact point for orchestra

- ✚ technical support/staging set up staging and organise sound and recording for concerts
- ✚ other committee members, when there are any, support the above and take on a variety of jobs as the need arises such as arranging coaches or fundraising activities

Some groups and societies elect to have fixed terms of one or two years for committee members to ensure a regular change of people and views. Our society decided against that as we felt valued expertise was likely to be too quickly lost, but it matters that 'new blood' is regularly added to any group and TCS committee is no exception. We should also recognise that circumstances are always wide open to change and that all committee members will need a break.

I am sure that there are members out there with the skills and enthusiasm to be involved with the kinds of things the committee does, so why not come and join us?

Birthday Bouquets!



Happy birthday to Jean and Tom (who share the same day), and to Sandra and to Beverley who all had birthdays in May; also to Gill and Jill, Jan and Ruth K for their June celebrations.

Dates for your Diary

There are one or two alterations to the original list.

2013-2014

June 28th 2014 – Prom in the Barn

July 3rd – Parlour evening URC Hall 7:4pm for 8:00pm start

July 10th 2014 – AGM and end of Summer Term

2014-2015

September 11th start of Autumn Term 2014-2015

October 30th - half term week for Essex schools so no rehearsal

December 6th Britten 'Ceremony of Carols' plus other

December 6th - end of Autumn Term

January 8th – start of Spring Term

February 19th – half term week for Essex schools so no rehearsal

March 21st Fauré and Mozart Requiems

March 21st – end of Spring Term

April 16th - start of Summer Term (tbc)

April 25th concert for The Bible Society

June 27th Summer concert

July 9th AGM and end of Summer Term (tbc)

2015-2016

September 10th 2015 start of Autumn Term (tbc)

December 5th Gounod St Cecilia Mass with The Kingfisher Sinfonietta (plus another work tbd)

December 5th – end of Autumn Term

Concert, social, AGM, then summer holidays – enjoy them all!

Liz
16th June 2014

