



Winchester Music Club

Chairman's Newsletter

Summer 2016

I hope you are having a good summer and are able to enjoy the lovely weather we are having, but autumn term is only a few weeks away. We have an exciting season planned: Vaughan Williams and Parry in the Cathedral on Thursday 24th November '16 and Haydn on Sunday 19th March '17 in New Hall.

Tickets for the Cathedral Concert will be available for choir members at the first rehearsal and then go on sale to the public the following Monday from the Cathedral Box Office. Prices range from £10 to £35, please sell lots of tickets! With David conducting and two superb soloists: Lucy Crowe, soprano, and Neal Davis, Baritone, it will be a wonderful concert. You might have heard Lucy perform in Haydn *Nelson Mass* at the Proms this earlier this year and you have another opportunity to hear her again at the Proms on 26th August performing Mozart *Requiem*. Our full programme is:

Parry *Blest Pair of Sirens*

Holst *Hymns from the Rig Veda III* (sung by the Quiristers and conducted by Malcolm Archer)

Vaughan Williams *Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis* (orchestra only)

Vaughan Williams *Dona Nobis Pacem*

David writes: "*Vaughan Williams' Dona nobis pacem is one of his finest choral works. Composed in 1936 and employing mainly the poetry of Walt Whitman as its text, it is a passionate and deeply-felt plea by the composer against war, at a time when a second global conflict seemed imminent. Vaughan Williams had served in the Great War as a stretcher-bearer, and had therefore seen the horror of the trenches at first hand; he had also lost many friends during the course of the war. The texts represent those horrors but also the belief that eventually man will see the error of his ways, and live in peace. The resultant work is both moving and rousing, passionate and powerful, contrasting beauty with terror, and the sounds of battle with the calm of peace.*

The first half of the concert will include the same composer's Fantasia on a Theme of Thomas Tallis with its lush writing for double string orchestra; Vaughan Williams' teacher, Hubert Parry, is represented by his ode to music Blest pair of sirens, a setting of words by John Milton, while the Hymns from the Rig Veda by Vaughan Williams' contemporary and friend Gustav Holst will be performed by the Winchester College Quiristers..."

Rehearsals for Vaughan Williams and Parry start on Friday 9th September at 7:30pm in Winchester College Music School:

9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th September

7th, 14th, 21st October (There will be no rehearsal on 28th October.)

4th, 11th November

Friday 18th November at 7.30pm in New Hall with Glee Club

Wednesday 23rd November 7pm - 9pm in Winchester Cathedral

Thursday 24th November 2pm - 5pm in Winchester Cathedral

For the Vaughan Williams we will be using OUP edition (Catalogue No:9780193388611). We will be using David's edition of *Blest Pair of Sirens* and it will not be available to purchase beforehand.

Please come at 6:45pm for the first rehearsal to have a glass of wine or fruit juice, hire scores and meet up with other members old and new. For those of you who prefer not to pay your fees by bank transfer you will be able to give Andrew cheques, taking advantage of the £5 discount for prompt payment.

The Executive Committee have reviewed the level of subscription in the light of the financial results for the year 2015/6 and the agreed policy as to the appropriate amount for the coming year, is in summary to be competitive but set at a level that assets are maintained at a prudent level allowing for the risks in promoting concerts and to enable us to retain professional performers to the standard required. Although our finances have recovered significantly the coming year faces challenges with concerts that are unlikely to be as profitable so in all probability assets will otherwise decline. Accordingly the subscription will be £120 but reduced to £115 if paid within the first two weeks of term. The amount disallowed for Gift Aid will be £4. It is very helpful to us if as many members as possible pay direct into our account. The details are sort code 55 81 26 and account number 00343323 account name Winchester Music Club. When doing so please remember to make sure you use your name as a reference.

This year's AGM will be at the end of the rehearsal on Friday 30^h September at 9pm. We will have to be out of the building before 10pm to enable the security staff to lock up, but we aim to keep it as brief as possible by distributing all reports beforehand. The formal notice of the meeting will be sent out soon. We are desperate for new committee members, particularly to fill the role of treasurer. Andrew wants to step down as treasurer as soon as possible and he will be ineligible to continue after September 2017. **If we don't find a treasurer then the Club will cease to exist.** Please contact me if you are interested or know of someone who might be, you don't need to be a chartered accountant but you do need to be able to use a spreadsheet. We are also hoping to recruit a voice representative for each section. There will be a few minutes set aside during the rehearsal on 17th when all four sections will select their representatives.

Please do keep looking at the website, Arden works hard to keep it up to date and in addition to details of our concerts and rehearsals and contact details and photos of committee members there are details of other events that might be of interest. The latest to be added is a concert by the Endelienta Scholars on 27th August in St Lawrence's Church. Conducted by Oliver Tarney, it will include works by Parry, Lauridsen, Mancini, Bette Midler, Elgar, MacDowell, Vaughan Williams, and Whitacre.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who made the 2015-16 season such a success and I hope to see you on 9th September to start the 2016-17 season and to make it as enjoyable and memorable as the last.

With best wishes



Angela Ryde-Weller, Chairman