



KENDAL SOUTH CHOIR

Newsletter 22 – June 2021

This newsletter is sent in the confident hope that we will all be singing together again in September! – the first rehearsal will be Tuesday 7th September.

Our Christmas concert will be on **Friday 10th December**, when we will sing *Navidad Nuestra* by Ariel Ramirez (in English!) and *Fantasia on Christmas Carols* by Vaughan Williams, together with some Spanish carols (in Spanish) and some audience carols. The soloist will be Christopher Steele.

In Spring we will give a concert of music by Haydn and Mozart, with a soprano soloist (yet to be decided). This will be on **Saturday 14th May**.

Both of these concerts will be held in St Thomas's Church in Kendal.

And on **Saturday 19th November 2022** we will finally sing *Mass in Blue* by Will Todd, plus *Feel the Spirit* by John Rutter – another very enjoyable piece. Joanna Forbes-L'Estrange will be the soprano soloist for both of these pieces. The venue for this concert has yet to be decided.

Please make a note of all these dates in your diaries.

Social Events

Meanwhile, we have two social events planned.

The first is a **Strawberry Tea with Pimm's**, which will be held on **Sunday 18th July from 3.30pm**, at Dorothy Davies's new

home, 3 Laneside Road, Grange-over-Sands LA11 7BU. This will obviously be a hot day!

There will be a barbecue on **Sunday 5th September at 1.00pm**, at Arthur and Jean Robinson's home, Over Blease, Old Hutton, Kendal LA8 0LU. It may well rain and/or blow a gale.



The charge for each event will be £8 per person, and we will need numbers nearer the time for catering purposes.

Money Matters

Subscriptions 2021/2022

In recent years we have been fortunate in obtaining grants towards our concert costs so that each year we have been able to have an orchestra and up to four soloists for each of our two concerts. Not unnaturally our sponsors expect that the choir itself makes a contribution to concert costs and this we have been able to do, contributing something like £1,000 a year or more. Unfortunately that is no longer the case. The contribution has tailed off, until next year our subscriptions and other receipts will be very substantially less than rehearsal costs and other payments.

The Committee has considered what can be done to improve the position. It is possible to reduce concert costs by reverting to our previous practice of planning one concert without orchestra using organ accompaniment and with



limited soloists. This is planned for next year. Members are asked to make a big effort to sell more tickets. Possible other fundraising events will be considered which members are urged to support (please remember the book etc stall and don't forget EasyFundraising and Amazon Smile when you shop online – all very useful sources of funds) and efforts will be made to increase membership.

Donations can be a valuable source of income and we have been fortunate to have a number over the years. They can be particularly helpful if the donor is a tax payer and so can donate under Gift Aid. Then the taxman adds another 25% which is a considerable increase. If any member feels able to make a donation the Committee would be very grateful.

That leaves subscriptions. To produce a contribution to concert costs would require a considerable increase but the Committee has agreed a more acceptable increase of £10 to £100 a year as from September. The Committee feels that this is a modest amount to pay for the privilege of singing in a choir which is so well respected in the district and to take part in concerts which are always of a high standard and well reviewed. Members will agree surely that this must be good value for money – to put it in perspective, it is no more than the cost of a cup of coffee a week.

Gift Aid

Members are reminded that not all of our subscription is eligible for gift aid. For those who have to complete a self-assessment tax return the amount of subscription to be included as gift aid for the tax year 2021/22 based on the new subscription is £91.

When we asked for your favourite pieces of choral music for the Christmas newsletter, this was on the assumption that we would possibly be able to get back to singing together before the end of the 2020/21 session, but probably not with enough rehearsal time to put on a formal concert.

This has, of course, not been possible, but rest assured your choices are all stored away safely in case this is something we could (or might need to!) do in future.

Section Reps:

Soprano: Jean Robinson (01539 725955)
Email jeanrobinson1946@gmail.com

Alto: Dorothy Davies (015395 32241)
Email dorothydavies@foxrock.co.uk

Tenor: David Thomas (015242 74223)
Email dgt.thomas@gmail.com

Bass: Arthur Robinson (01539 725955)
Email arthurrobinson48@googlemail.com

www.kendalsouthchoir.org.uk

