



Newsletter

September 2020

Introduction

Bridget Corlett

I hope you and your family are keeping well and safe in these unusual times.

Since the last newsletter in July the Society has been busy. The Annual Reports went out in August. The Mozart's Ave Verum project, involving submitting a recording of yourself singing has happened. We have held our first Zoom AGM, and we have now had four rehearsals with Jonathan and Penny of Haydn's, Nelson Mass and Karl Jenkins', The Armed Man. Kevin has even joined us on-line from Ireland!

We seem to be facing an uncertain second wave of this Coronavirus Pandemic, nationally case numbers are rising and the number of cases in Malvern, Worcester and Herefordshire rises and falls with pockets of new cases. Time itself seems strange at the moment. I have found myself having to consciously work out what day of the week it was. However, I have enjoyed the extra time I have had to spend in the garden, and the pleasant weather we have up until now to benefit this pastime.

We held Malvern Festival Chorus's first on-line AGM this year on 8th September and it was good to see so many of you on the three Zoom screens. The discussions and questions raised were interesting and relevant. For those of you who were unable to attend I would like to highlight some of the decisions and topics that came up.

The following people were re-elected on the committee,

Chairman, Kevin Ilsley

Secretary, Barbara Moss

Treasurer, Mike Tweedie, although Mike will stand down at the end of this next season.

Librarian, Bridget Corlett

Concert Manager, John Price

Safeguarding Officer, Louise Rosoman

Membership Secretary, Joy Black

Friends Secretary, Alice Osmond

Honorary Member, Penny Vere

Soprano Rep. Edwina Ward

Bass Rep. Chris Little

We are looking forward to welcoming Jacqui Richardson as our new Tenor Rep. at the next committee meeting. There is still a vacancy for an Alto Rep.

Being a Voice Rep. mainly involves being the contact person for those members in the particular voice part, so they have a means of feeding information to or asking questions of the committee. Of course, this would normally happen at rehearsal making this aspect of the role less easy at the moment. Apart from that, it's a way of introducing new people onto the committee so they can get to know us, see what we do and hopefully get involved in some of the many activities we need volunteers for. We are a committee who each have different strengths and experiences; we would welcome anyone who is interested in joining us.

We hold committee meetings on-line at the moment using Zoom, usually about once a month. This change has been successful; as national and local situations alter and develop; we aim to keep you all informed, prepare for on-line activities, both singing rehearsals and social events, and be ready to commence rehearsing and performing together again, as soon as it is safe and we are able to do so. Thank you to all 84 of you who completed the survey. The results help the committee with planning.

About 65 people in total have joined the Zoom rehearsals and we are most grateful to Jonathan and Penny for all the preparation and enthusiasm they have given getting this project off the ground and running so successfully. Jonathan said they were definitely a good way to keep us together until we can meet again in person. It is certainly different to rehearsing together in the same room and hearing others singing alongside you. If it feels strange to begin with, do persevere, as those who have been taking part in this sort of venture for a while say it does become easier.

As far as 'Carols for All' goes this year we need to be responsive and light on our feet, to be ready for whatever situation presents. After the success of the 'Ave Verum project', a show of hands indicated enthusiasm for another such project, and a Carol for Christmas was suggested. The Ave Verum recording is ready to view and you can now do so by visiting the members' page on the MFC website and clicking on the link under the heading 'Ave Verum Project' A huge Thank You to Barry Austin for putting this together for us.

Mike told us that the company that was in charge of outside lettings at The Chase went into liquidation. The Business Manager at The Chase does not expect there will be any lettings before the end of the Academic Year. Barbara is talking to other venues. There is still some confusion about how many people can meet to sing together, and this number remains too uncertain for future planning at the moment.

The Society still has on-going administration and running costs. The social events, raffles and sales often raised an equivalent sum of money as administration costs, and obviously this type of fundraising has been suspended currently.

The Subscription is to remain at £110 for the year, but will be split. If you are attending Zoom rehearsals this term the subscription for the term is £35 and is due now. For those of you happy to pay for the whole year now, that would be much appreciated but we know that some of you would prefer to pay term by term. For those of you who are rehearsing on your own there is no charge. Payment of the balance for the spring and summer terms will depend on when physical rehearsals recommence and we will let you all know.

There are two ways to pay.

By Bank Transfer or you can send a cheque direct to Mike: -

For more details please refer to the e-mail sent out on 9th September.

Throughout the AGM there were numerous occasions when people were thanked for their contributions to the Society. There was at least one omission, and at the next on-line rehearsal Kevin apologised and thanked Kate Cross for all the work she has done on the committee for many years. Kate has helped especially with the production of posters and programmes, organised flowers and gifts for our soloists, and hosted committee meetings at her home. Thank you, Kate, we are most grateful for everything you have done in the past, as you step down from committee.

Please continue to keep your eye on the website for up to date information and rehearsal schedules, and watch out for the next quiz being organised by Jonathan with a music theme.

AOTOS - The Association of Teachers of Singing, Webinar 17th September 2020

Singing, aerosols and Covid. What does the PERFORM study tell us?

In the July Newsletter both Kevin and Jonathan mentioned research being done inside the Covid-19 lab hoping to declare singing safe, under the title '**Sing into the Funnel Please**'.

This is a link to a National on-line Webinar giving the results of the project.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AZMpYydZj-4&feature=youtu.be>

There are three speakers.

Nicholas Gibbins, Consultant Laryngologist, Lewisham

Covid, the facts about the virus, its spread and the implication on groups and activities. The crystal ball view of the next few years.

Natalie Watson, Senior Trainee Laryngologist, London

The perform study – the set-up, the method and results.

Declan Costello, Consultant Laryngologist, Wexham Park

What do these results mean for music and singing? What is the government doing to help the return of the Performing Arts?

The whole webinar lasts about 1 hour 8 minutes. It is interesting and thorough in its presentation of the research. Declan Costello starts speaking about 36:45 minutes in.

Line Riders

Alice Osmond

These are doodles of animated figures tobogganing along lines, in time to pieces of music.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vcBn04IyELc> – doodles of Beethoven's 5th.

It's worth reading the first comment underneath from the chap who created it (in 3 months!!).

And then there's the Blue Danube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fYVaHVVHuARA!>

There are more, but these are two of the best. We hope you enjoy them!

Petition asking for more clarity about a safe return to singing. Alice Osmond

Alice Osmond has passed on information about this petition, <https://www.change.org/p/government-choir-singing-a-safe-return> which people may like to sign? It's asking for more clarity and says:

"We are now asking for clarification on the documents released on 14 Sept 2020 stating that amateur choirs could be breaking the law, with specific reference to the word "mingling". We want clarification as in mid-August we were given the go ahead. We have sat and watched pubs open, planes fly, sport resume - it is now our turn.

"Singing is an important part of so many people's lives in the UK - bringing together, in local communities, those whose paths may otherwise not cross and enabling friendship and companionship. That along with the health benefits - both physical and mental - we now need a roadmap that sees the return of Choir Singing to our communities as they have not been able to do so since March 2020.

"It should not be left to an individual choir leader to decide when it is safe to return.

Please sign this petition to support this cause and get everyone singing again - we need a roadmap with guidelines for a safe return before this foundation of your local community disappears."

Dates for your diary

Tuesdays September 2020 onwards. Zoom Rehearsals. 7.15pm for 7.30pm start.

Musical Quiz October 2020. Details to follow.

Editor's note

Thank you once again to all the contributors.

We are intending that future newsletters will follow, and we would be very grateful to have your ideas about what you would like to have included. If you have any links to interesting articles, performances and recordings that you think other members would be interested in, please send them to me. If you would like to edit the next one, let me know. I hope you enjoy the quiz, 'Commercial Break'.

Bridget

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Commercial Break

Complete the slogans and/or identify the products from the catch phrases of advertisements from the distant past up to the present day.

Examples:

A). Pppppp pick up a? PENGUIN

B). Because you're worth it. L'OREAL

1. Have a break
2. Aahhhh
3. You'll wonder where the yellow went when.....
4. The mint with the hole.
5. You're never alone with a
6. They're gr-r-reat!
7. Every little helps.
8. Should've gone to
9. The ultimate driving machine.
10. The sweet you can eat between meals.
11. Kills germs dead.
12. Good things come to those who wait.
13. Full of Eastern promise.
14. The listening bank.
15. Clearly a better mint.
16. Put a tiger in your tank.
17. Just do it.
18. Hands that do dishes can feel as soft as your face with
19. All because the lady loves
20. Fortifies the over forties.
21. Soft and strong and very long.
22. Refreshes the parts other beers cannot reach.
23. Helps you work, rest and play.
24. It's got our name on it.
25. The world's favourite airline.
26. made to make your mouth water.
27. Probably the best lager in the world.
28. Aids recovery.
29. You either love it or hate it!
30. makes exceedingly good cakes.