

2018 September

BEXHILL CHORAL SOCIETY

In June our Director of Music, Kenneth Roberts, did a fund-raising Lecture Recital for us – this is now an annual event which features as part of the Bexhill Festival of Music, and always sells out. Ken has said he is happy to do this, as the extra funds give us more flexibility when choosing music.

Some of our members joined the choir for the 'Last Night of the Bexhill Proms' concert which has become the popular annual finale for the Festival also conducted by Kenneth Roberts).

We are now rehearsing for our next concert on 6th October at St Augustine's church in Bexhill. This includes Rossini's Stabat Mater, Franck's setting of Psalm 150, Schubert's Tantum Ergo and Puccini's Requiem. These are lovely pieces but less well-known, and there's some concern that this may impact audience numbers. Choir numbers, particularly basses, are also somewhat reduced for this concert, mainly by ill-health, although a few members have double-booked themselves.

We also have a fund-raising Quiz evening on 2nd November.

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DOWNLAND SINGERS

Our two summer performances were well received by the audiences. The Anniversary Concert held at Trinity was a great success and the programme was shared with "Sussex Strings". The highlight of the afternoon was to perform "The Ashokan Farewell" utilising the skills of Simon Smith, the director of Sussex Strings, on the violin

On both occasions the choir was just 50% attendance due to holidays and other commitments. Unfortunately, the Summer Concert clashed with a number of renowned sporting fixtures which meant the audience was somewhat smaller than hoped for.

The choir have since made the decision to reschedule the 2019 concert for a Friday evening.

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EASTBOURNE CHORAL SOCIETY

Eastbourne Choral Society's last concert of the 17/18 season was in July. As with most choirs, our numbers are slightly smaller in the summer term but still seventy plus of us enjoyed rehearsing and performing Howard Goodall – Eternal Light and the Rutter Requiem. We were accompanied by Nick Houghton and a small ensemble, all of whom played beautifully, whilst allowing the choir to get across the text clearly. Feedback from the audience was great, although we would have wished for more of them. Unfortunately, our concert clashed with some events which were not on any calendar when we planned the concert. Eastbourne is a very busy place in the summer!

We now have a busy term ahead and are very much looking forward to our workshop day with Howard Goodall on 29th Sept.

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HAILSHAM CHORAL SOCIETY

Since our last meeting we have performed our Summer concert on 30 June, which was an enjoyable evening of light music, mainly British folksongs, but also Phantom of the Opera, some Opera Choruses and some solos by Jozik and a few of our talented choir members. It was surprisingly well attended, considering the hot weather, and actually made a profit!

We then finished the term taking part in a very special evening at the Korean Festival in the Eastbourne Town Hall, where we performed not only some of our own music, but also sang Korean songs together with the London Korean

Choral Society. It was not easy to learn the Korean words in the limited time we had, but it was fun and very well received by the mainly Korean audience! We enjoyed a fabulous Korean buffet and watched fan-dances and drummers (samulnori) and gayaguem players (kind of zither) as well as a stunning Korean violinist, Hee Jin Kwon, the great-niece of the conductor. She is a hugely talented performer and was the highlight for me.

We will be taking part in the Hailsham Festival Mayor's Concert on Saturday, 15 September, which is always good fun.

We have now started rehearsing for our Autumn concert which is on Saturday, 10 November, where we will sing the Whispering Mass composed by one of our choir members, Marcus Haddow, as well as a selection of European Sacred Music

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