



SUMMER NEWS

August 2023

FROM OUR CHAIR

We've had a great year singing a variety of wonderful music. Thank you to all who have helped make the 2022-2023 season so successful and enjoyable. We are now looking forward to the 50th Anniversary of Fakenham Choral Society. The committee has many plans for 2023-2024 to celebrate 50 years, as well as our usual three concerts. The highlight of the singing year will be Verdi's *Requiem* on 20th April 2024, a special work for a special occasion.

I hope you will wish to join us to continue the tradition of FCS bringing high quality choral music to North Norfolk.

Roger

FROM OUR MUSICAL DIRECTOR

To all members of Fakenham Choral Society: Summer 2023

I hope that you have all enjoyed singing over the past year. It has been good to be back doing our concerts with orchestral players and soloists. All three concerts were very successful and it was good to see audiences coming back in larger numbers.

Looking ahead to our anniversary season I do hope that you will enjoy all the music we have chosen. The highlight of the year will obviously be the Verdi *Requiem* which is one of the great pieces of the choral repertoire. We will be starting to work on this in September as

we have a long Michaelmas term ahead of us. The Christmas concert includes the delightful Charpentier *Messe de Minuit* and the Pergolesi/Durante *Magnificat*. For the second half of the term we will also start our Christmas carol selection.

Many thanks to James, Justin and Jonathan for all that they have done during the year. Also a big thank you to the committee for their tireless work. And a final thank you to you all for your singing throughout the year. Please do encourage new members to join as we have a very exciting year ahead of us.

Mark

SO MANY 'THANK-YOUS'

We are most grateful for the ongoing support from our Friends of FCS. Their continued interest in the choir is very much appreciated and it is a joy to see them at our concerts. We must also extend our thanks to the business and personal sponsors whose financial help enables us to engage top class musicians and soloists as well as ensuring our Come & Sing event can help other good causes. There are others who sponsor in kind – our fabulous stewards, Stangrooms for storing our staging, GJL for transporting it and, of course, our patron Sarah, Countess of Leicester. Fakenham Choral Society members and its audiences are indebted to you all.

FUN, FUN, FUNDRAISING AHEAD!

FCS members are the sort of people who believe that if you want something done, best get out of your seat and make it happen. To help raise money for extra musicians and soloists we are holding a Grand Draw and a Quiz Night. There are some brilliant Grand Draw prizes up for grabs, so we hope everyone will purchase tickets and encourage friends, family, groups you attend, work colleagues...etc. to buy some, too. Tickets will go on sale during the autumn term and the draw will take place soon after our Verdi concert. This also gives us the opportunity to sell tickets to audience members at our concerts. If you're up for a bit of quizzing, make sure you start organising a team soon (and thinking of a team name) for the evening of Tuesday 24th October at Wood Norton Village Hall. A great opportunity to socialise, spot an egghead or commiserate with the wooden spoon winners. Many thanks to our 50th sub-committee, Jean Mayne, Colin Blackmore and Tim Burton for organising everything and to choir members who have donated such wonderful prizes for the Grand Draw.

GROWING OUR NUMBERS

Thank you if you've been 'encouraging' singers you know to join us for our very special birthday. Word of mouth and personal recommendations are particularly potent, but we're also actively recruiting via social media, our website and press releases, the Making Music website, and some targeted leaflet drops. If you have any flyers from last year, please don't hesitate to display them in your area. An electronic version has been circulated with group emails in July.

It would be very helpful to Sonia, Louise, and the committee in general, if we know who is coming along in September. Please either email with a name and voice part (if known) or ask them to make contact direct – our website has an online form which goes straight to Louise. Our warm welcome has been commented upon by new members, but this is a gentle reminder to be flexible with seating, please.

KEEPING YOUR DETAILS UP TO DATE

This September we'll be asking everyone to complete a new membership and Gift Aid form at the start of term. This will ensure everyone's details are right up to date. Look out for the form which will be sent attached to a group email before we start back. It would be very helpful if you could print and complete a copy to hand in at your first rehearsal back, but there will also be some printed copies of the form available. Thank you.

COME & SING DAY 16TH MARCH 2024

We plan to hold a celebratory Come & Sing Day in Fakenham Academy on Saturday 16th March 2024. The music will be choruses chosen from 50 years of FCS concerts. So plenty of scope to reflect the wide range of music and composers FCS has performed over the years.

The day will take the usual format of morning and afternoon workshops with a short, free performance at the end of the day open to an audience. We hope to raise funds for the Motor Neurone Disease Association from singers and audience donations and a raffle on the day.

Rosemary will let everyone know when details have been finalised.

TERM DATES

Autumn

September 5th to December 12th weekly except October 24th (half term)
AGM: October 3rd This is usually no more than 20 minutes followed by our normal rehearsal.
QUIZ NIGHT: 24th October at Wood Norton Village Hall
CONCERT: 16th December at Fakenham

Spring

January 9th to April 16th weekly except February 20th (half term)
COME & SING: provisionally booked for Saturday March 16th
CONCERT: 20th April in Fakenham (or possibly Wells if building work overruns)

Summer

A one week break after the concert then weekly April 30th to June 18th (no half term)
CONCERT: 22nd in Fakenham or possibly Wells

SUBS FOR NEXT YEAR

I'm pleased to be able to tell you that the Committee has decided subs will remain at £126 for the 2023/24 season. We felt that this would encourage new members to join and would also keep membership affordable for existing singers in the current climate. If we break that down per rehearsal, that's just £3.70 per Tuesday, which is exceptionally good value. KLFC charge £168 for the year, Rock Choirs £100 per term and The Big Sing community choir is £7 per rehearsal.

But without the addition of Gift Aid, we will not be covering the weekly costs of running our rehearsals and so members should expect an increase in subs in future years.

As we plan to celebrate the 50th anniversary season in style with some extra special concerts, we are asking members to consider, when paying their subs, to make an additional donation. There are also fund-raising activities planned, grant applications being made and requests for business sponsorship.

Concert costs are not covered by our subs but by ticket sales, fundraising, sponsorship and donations. A large work such as the Verdi Requiem requires more musicians and soloists than we would normally have, so securing funds towards these extra costs will enable us to keep ticket prices at a reasonable level to encourage a large audience.

Subs are due on our return in September, payable by the end of the month. You can either pay in full (£126) by the end of September or in two equal instalments, £63 in September and £63 in January 2024. It is expected that members who join or renew in the Autumn term are committed to sing for the whole season.

Payments via online bank transfer would be preferred if possible. The banking details are:

- Fakenham Choral Society
- Sort code 20-30-81
- Account no. 00370843

Please enter the amount (subs and donation if applicable) and your name(s) in the reference box. Please also inform me that you have paid by emailing: louise.myhill@btinternet.com

Alternatively, you can pay by card when attending rehearsals in September or pay by cheque made payable to 'Fakenham Choral Society' (please place this in a named envelope).

Your continuing support of the choir is much appreciated and I look forward to a very special year ahead!

Gill and Louise

KEY CONTACT DETAILS

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