



bath minerva choir

Registered Charity Number 109814
www.bathminervachoir.co.uk

August 2011

Dear Choir Member

As we get ready to start rehearsals for our December 10 concert of 'Venetian Splendour' at St Mary's Bathwick, we would like to give you some more details of the plans Gavin and your committee have agreed for the following year, 2012.

Spring 2012:

Following the great success of Beethoven's Mass in C in 2010, we wondered if there were any other major choral works by great composers that were similarly neglected. Our first thought was Schubert's Mass in Eb, but this turned out to pose some practical problems in performance so we have now settled on a piece that we actually like better: the **Mass in F Minor by Anton Bruckner**. This is a major work lasting some 50 minutes for orchestra, chorus and four soloists: we will be performing it in Bath Abbey on Saturday, April 28. Bruckner was in many ways inspired by Schubert and the orchestra will perform Schubert's Fifth Symphony in the first half of the programme.

Many of you will have enjoyed singing Bruckner's motets with Minerva in recent years and know what a great choral writer he is: this is the sort of music where we can sound at our best. And if you know any of Bruckner's symphonies you will have some idea of the gorgeous romantic orchestral sounds that will accompany our singing.

Summer 2012:

For the summer term, we are going to do something new. Rather than rehearse for a formal concert, our term's work will culminate in an all- weekend workshop with an informal performance on the Sunday afternoon, giving us a chance to explore music which we might not normally choose to programme. That music will be **J S Bach's St. John Passion**.

We don't believe Bath Minerva Choir has ever sung Bach before: this is an opportunity for us to do so without the pressure of a full public performance. The culminating workshop will also be open to singers from outside the choir (for a fee) which will add to the occasion. For our soloists we plan to select top vocal students from the Guildhall and other top schools of music.

For the workshop we have booked the outstanding new music facility at Hayesfield School, in Bath. The dates, subject to confirmation, will be Saturday June 30/Sunday July 1st.

Autumn 2012:

Our Christmas Concert in 2009 at St Swithin's, Walcot was a sell-out and a wonderful evening: we think it's time we went back there. We will have a similarly varied programme, ending up with a carol or two, supported by soloists and a small orchestra. We have booked St Swithin's for Saturday, December 15th.

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Secretary: Joanna Wiesner

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As ever, we have aimed to provide variety; to mix well known and lesser known works; to develop and extend our choral and vocal skills; and above all to create the opportunity for some wonderful music making. So please put these dates in your diaries: we feel confident you will want to be part of all three programmes.

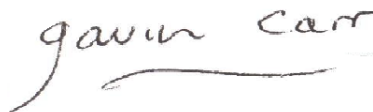
Our rehearsal schedule for 2011/2012 is attached. You will note the usual adjustments to allow for rehearsals for South West Festival Chorus in both January/February and June. Some dates are provisional at present and will be confirmed as soon as possible.

It is assumed that you have already contacted Sue Hourizi (01225 311102 or sue_hourizi@hotmail.com) to order your music for our December concert, rehearsals for which start on 3 September. **If you haven't remembered to do this, there will be no music for you at the first rehearsal.** If you have bought your own copy of European Sacred Music, Sue still needs to know that you have done so and that you will be hiring from her the other items we are singing. When last heard, out of a potential 132 singers, only 90 had contacted Sue. The rest of you are duly warned!

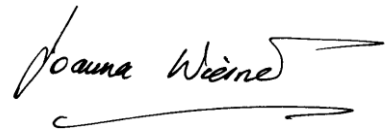
With good wishes to you all



Chairman



Music Director



Secretary

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