



NO1. AUGUST 2016

BLACKBURN
MUSIC
 SOCIETY

Newsletter
 August 2016

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A LOOK AT THE SEASON AHEAD

Joy Fielding

Congratulations and sincere thanks to you all for a wonderful 2015/16 season of top quality BMS performances under the baton of our ever-inspiring Musical Director, Tom.

Thanks also to anyone and everyone who has done any job large or small, or helped in any way to keep BMS the friendly, professional, high-achieving society that it strives to be.

I hope you enjoy looking through this newsletter. Discover what more you can do by reading the BMS Organisation Update – it's all in there! We have some great concerts and events ahead. If you're passionate about them then don't hold back - get fully involved.

If you would seriously like to volunteer to help informally in any way, or think you have skills that can be used in any job role or just want to make a few tentative enquiries,

then please send an email (see contact below) or speak to either me or Chris LENAUGHAN in the strictest confidence and without pressure.

Committee positions vacant this coming season include Treasurer, Concert Secretary and Membership Secretary. Job specs are available on request from email below.

Have a great musical season!

Joy

Your feedback is important to us. You can contact any Committee member at the central email address below.

CONTACT BMS AT:
bbmusicsoc@gmail.com

A Look at the Season Ahead

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SEPTEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Monday 5th September

First rehearsal at St Mary's college

Monday 12th September

Open rehearsal – invite your friends!

Monday 26th September

Last date for
 Committee Nominations

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Keep up to date: please check BMS website for latest detailed rehearsal schedule.

MON 5 SEPT St Mary's College

6.45pm Voice-testing all new men who were not tested last season.

7.15pm First full choir rehearsal of the new season. Sing through both Duruflé and Puccini.

MON 12 SEPT St Mary's College

6.45pm Voice-testing all new sopranos who were not tested last season.

7.15pm OPEN REHEARSAL - PUCCINI
Free Music scores available on the night for visitors.

MON 19 SEPT St Mary's College

6.45pm Voice-testing all remaining new members untested so far.

7.15pm Full choir rehearsal.

MON 26 SEPT St Mary's College

6.45pm Weekly SEMICHORUS rehearsals begin.

7.15pm Full choir rehearsal.

MON 3 OCT St Mary's College

8.30pm Annual General Meeting.

SAT 19 NOV Blackburn Cathedral

7.30pm CONCERT - DURUFLÉ REQUIEM, DURUFLÉ QUATRE MOTETS, PUCCINI MESSA DI GLORIA

SAT 3 DEC Blackburn Cathedral

2pm Dress Rehearsal

7pm CONCERT - HANDEL MESSIAH

MON 5 DEC St Mary's College

6.45pm Carols for Light up a Life then Part 1 of Gerontius.

MON 12 DEC Blackburn Cathedral

7.30pm LIGHT UP A LIFE SERVICE

DECEMBER CAROL SINGING dates and venues tbc.

2017:

2 JAN First rehearsal of 2017 Dream of Gerontius.

25 FEB WORKSHOP WITH PAUL SPICER

18 MAR CONCERT - ELGAR DREAM OF GERONTIUS

APRIL date tbc. ROYAL SOCIETY OF ST GEORGE SERVICE

11 JUN East Lancs Hospice SUMMER PROM CONCERT

22 JUN FESTIVAL OF VOICES

26 JUN END OF SEASON DINNER

VIEW FROM THE PODIUM

Tom Newall

I hope you've all had a great summer and raring to go for our brand new season! I know I can't wait to get stuck in again! We have some really exciting challenges coming up, starting with a French-themed programme. Duruflés glorious Requiem doesn't get half the outings that Fauré's does, but for me both pieces sit high up there in French choral repertoire. It has moments of fury and exclamation combined with some of the most sublime music ever written! Our Messiah is always a highlight and this year I'm looking forward to getting those runs as light as we possibly can. Let's hope I don't have to sing this time! The New Year sees a long-simmering BMS project come to life: The Dream of Gerontius. We have stellar soloists lined up, a fantastic orchestra whom I'm working with early this season so they know my conducting and I'm really excited to see what we will make of this masterpiece. It's my first Gerontius and I'm so excited to be able to put it on with BMS! Summer sees us teaming up with East Lancs Hospice to provide an afternoon 'pops' programme, with a lot of Last Night of the Proms type music. Don't forget it's our open rehearsal on Puccini's Gloria on 12th September, so be sure to invite any friends who may be interested in trying us out! Enjoy the rest of your Summer and I'm looking forward to seeing you all in a few weeks!

PROMOTING THE SOCIETY – HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Membership Fees

Membership fees will remain at £60 for the season 2016/2017 (free for members under 25 years of age on 1st Sept). This is extremely good value, especially considering the number of events we present and the duration of our season. You can help the Society by ensuring your subscription is paid **by the end of September**. Taking part in Gift Aid is also significantly helps our cash flow, so please do sign up to this if you can.

Open Rehearsal

The Open Rehearsal will take place on 12th September this year and we will focus on the Puccini. This event is really important in our calendar, as we aim to attract new singers. Please advertise this (free !) event to your friends who enjoy singing and any other music organisations that you know of. Flyers will be available soon, for you to promote the event.

Gaining Sponsorship

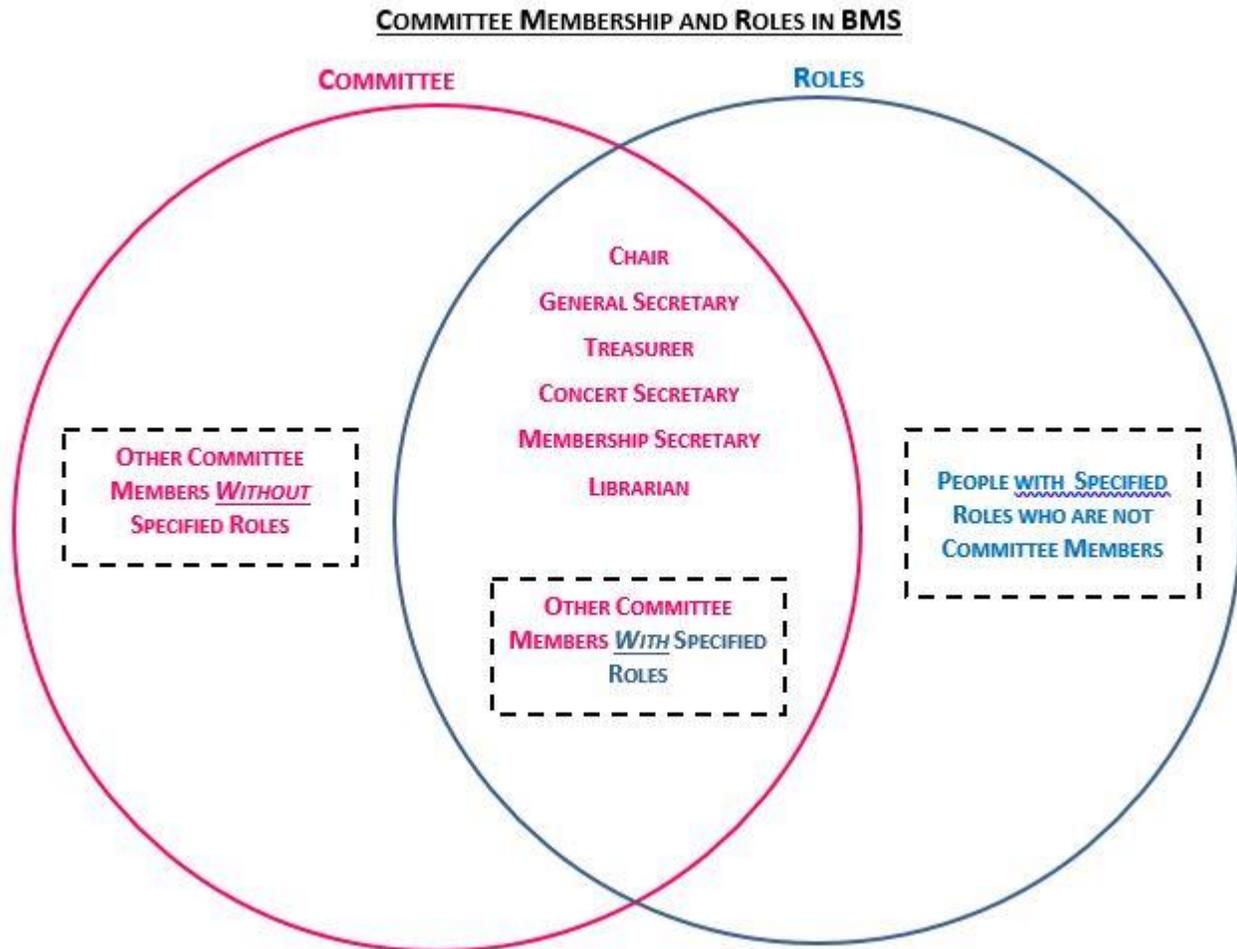
An important source of income for the Society comes from the support of our sponsors who advertise in our concert programmes. Please consider whether you know of anyone who has a business they may like to promote by advertising at our events. The cost would be: Full page £40 for one concert or £100 for all three concerts (Nov, Dec and March). Half page £20 for one concert or £50 for all three concerts. We can help with artwork if needed. In addition, any individual non-members who are kind enough to donate any amount over £25 during the season, will be listed in our programmes as a Sponsor and Friend of the Society.

What else can you do ?

Supporting our weekly raffle helps to pay for our rehearsal space. Most importantly, advertising and selling tickets for our concerts is key to the on-going success of the Society.

BMS ORGANISATION UPDATE

A small subcommittee has been looking at making the management of BMS more streamlined and up to date. As a result, we have produced a Committee structure plan and a set of Job Role Specifications.



All of the people on the Committee become Trustees of the Society. They will be **elected** by the Society members at the Annual General Meeting, hold office for one year and be eligible for re-election.

For the six job roles that are specified as being required (i.e. Chair, General Secretary, Treasurer, Concert Secretary, Membership Secretary, Librarian), individuals will be **elected to that specific position**.

A further four Committee members may be elected; these individuals may or may not hold a specific job role.

For job roles other than the six specified Committee roles, people can be **appointed** to the position whether they are a Committee member or not.

COMMITTEE NOMINATION FORMS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT REHEARSALS FROM 12TH SEPT.
COMPLETED FORMS TO BE RETURNED TO THE SECRETARY (CHRIS LENAUGHAN) BY 26TH SEPT.
THE AGM WILL BE HELD 3RD OCTOBER 2016.

BMS JOB ROLES

CHAIR (C) - Co-ordinates all activities to achieve the objects of the Society, ensuring that the Constitution of the Society is followed.

CONCERT SECRETARY (C) - Takes responsibility for arrangements associated with concert performances and workshops.

TREASURER (C) - Ensures that the Society's finances are managed in an efficient manner in accordance with the Constitution.

GENERAL SECRETARY (C) - Assists the Chair in the coordination of the activities required to achieve the Objects of the Society.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY (C) - Maintains and manages an accurate database of the Society's members and takes responsibility for the collection of fees, donations and claiming back Gift Aid.

LIBRARIAN (C) - Ensures singing members of the Society, soloists, orchestras and other instrumentalists are provided with music scores.

ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN - Assists the Librarian and takes responsibility for management of the database of the Society's music stocks.

WEB MANAGER - Maintains the website to promote a positive image for BMS and to promote our events.

VOICE REPRESENTATIVE - Represents the views of members of their Section to the Committee, cascades Committee decisions and proposals. Monitors section attendance.

PUBLICITY MANAGER - Promotes and publicises the Society and its events.

PROGRAMME SECRETARY - Designs and prepares printer's draft of concert programmes.

FRONT OF HOUSE MANAGER - Responsible for the organisation of all front of house activities, production, distribution and sale of concert tickets and accounts for all monies received.

STAGE MANAGER - Responsible for organising the staging of performances.

(C) Indicates Committee Member

The Society Needs You!

Chris Llenaughan

We've all had that moment of elation when it all comes together and we know we've 'wowed' the audience. Yes, it is about The Music but it is also about people working together... and sometimes it is a lot of hard work!

One of the great things about being in a choir is that sense of belonging; the support and friendship we get from our colleagues in BMS is I think, one of the real strengths of our Society.

As we continue to develop, our membership has grown, the number of events has increased and our reputation as a music society delivering to a very high standard has become firmly established. To support our continuing development, we need more than your singing talent, we need your help to run the organisation and deliver our events.

So what are your hidden skills and talents? Can you... move furniture, shift equipment, greet and steward people, set out a stage, find the missing key to the loo, pick up a parcel of posters, deliver posters, canvas for sponsors, sell tickets, locate a hundred copies of a rare score, make the tea, collect in music, run a raffle, take a decent photograph, keep accurate accounts, take a register... etc. The list is endless, so what can you do to help?

HOW CAN YOU HELP BEHIND THE SCENES?

Committee Membership

Committee Members are Trustees of the Society (which is a Registered Charity) and are legally and financially responsible for the business of the Society. They attend regular, formal Committee Meetings and are responsible for directing the strategy, organisation and business of the Society. For Season 2016/17 the posts of Treasurer, Membership Secretary and Concert Secretary are open.

Job Role

A Job Role is a recognised and formally-defined role in the Society. Some Job Roles require membership of the Committee (see page 3 and noted above). A complete list of Job Roles is shown in the panel on the left. All Job Roles have a formal specification which is available on request from the Secretary at bbmusicsoc@gmail.com

Assisting a Job Role

A number of Job Roles need assistance from time to time. This is a good way to get to know the ropes and extremely valuable help. Have a look at the various Job Roles and let us know, if you would like to help in an informal way.

Volunteering

Every rehearsal and event needs volunteers. It is really helpful if we know up-front our 'go to' people for reliable help. Simply let us know that you would like to be informally listed to assist with certain tasks. We particularly need people to set up chairs, porter piano and amp (roadies!), make the brews, sell programmes, collect in scores, check for litter etc.

Footnote...

The society is constantly on the lookout for potential venues for rehearsals, workshops and concerts. St Mary's College is a fantastic rehearsal venue and we have secured this for at least the next two seasons but as you will be aware, the availability is restricted to the academic term-time. This means that we are need to find alternative venues. Here is where we need your help...

We are looking for your ideas for potential venues; the Committee will make the approach regarding costs etc. but if you know of any potentially suitable venues for rehearsal, workshops or concerts, please let us know.

Things to consider when proposing a potential venue are:

- ✓ Car parking location, numbers and security
- ✓ Accessibility of location geographically
- ✓ Accessibility of venue for all event attendees
- ✓ Seating arrangements for attendees/performers/audience (inc. whether seats already in place or requiring set-up)
- ✓ Visibility of Conductor / Acoustics
- ✓ Performance area capacity / Audience capacity
- ✓ Availability of a well-maintained piano or organ
- ✓ Good pub close by ☺

IF YOUR VENUE GETS ALL (or most of) THE TICKS LET US KNOW!

BMS Newsletter

www.blackburnmusicsociety.org.com
email: bbmusicsoc@gmail.com

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Your feedback and ideas are important to the Society. You can contact any of the Committee at the central email address. Similarly, if you have any queries or would like to offer help in any way, please let us know.

Your Committee

JOY FIELDING	CHAIR
MARY LEDWICK	TREASURER
CHRIS LENAUGHAN	SECRETARY
JENNY BERRY	REGISTRAR
SHEILA SIMPSON	LIBRARIAN
ESTHER SHAW	PUBLICITY
MARGARET MCALLESTER	TICKETS /CHARITY SHOP
SUE PARKINSON	STAGE MANAGER
JANE EAGLAND	WEBSITE MANAGER
HEATHER BLUNT	
MARGARET CRANE	
ALAN RATCLIFFE	

VOICE REPS:

SOP: HEATHER BLUNT
ALTO: CHRIS OLDHAM
TENOR: ALAN RATCLIFFE
BASS: DEREK BELL