



NO2. NOVEMBER 2016

BLACKBURN
MUSIC
 SOCIETY

Newsletter
 November 2016

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Hello Wonderful BMS Singers!

Joy Fielding

We've been back just six weeks and I'm already getting very excited about our November Concert. The rehearsals are going well and the youthful Puccini's *Messa di Gloria* is sounding good already.

Tom is doing some great work getting us into Duruflé's sound world and you are all working very hard. There is no room for half-heartedness I know – we are going all out to learn it! Difficult to sing at first, yes, but this *Requiem* is well worth all the hours spent listening and learning. Performing this gorgeous music in the Cathedral will be a memorable experience and I am really looking forward to singing with the altos in the concert.

Your newly elected committee's first meeting was on Wednesday 19th October. I am very pleased to welcome three new committee members – Sarah, Caroline and Joan and I hope they will soon feel at home with the team. The combination of skills, energy and know-how that the full committee brings to the job is amazing and it will be a privilege once again for me to work with such an enthusiastic and committed group.

Joy

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

bbmusicsoc@gmail.com

Hello Wonderful BMS Singers!

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LATE AUTUMN HIGHLIGHTS

Saturday 19th November
 Autumn Concert

Saturday 3rd December
 Handel - Messiah

Monday 12th December
 Light up a Life Service

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**MON 31 Oct Westbury Gardens,
Blackburn BB1 1XF**
7.15pm Rehearsal

SAT 19 NOV Blackburn Cathedral
2.30pm Dress Rehearsal
7.30pm CONCERT - DURUFLÉ
QUATRE MOTETS, PUCCINI MESSA DI
GLORIA, DURUFLÉ REQUIEM

SAT 3 DEC Blackburn Cathedral
2pm - 5pm Dress Rehearsal
7pm CONCERT - HANDEL MESSIAH

MON 5 DEC St Mary's College
6.45pm Rehearsal - Carols for Light
up a Life, then read-through Part 1
of Gerontius

FRI 9 & SAT 10 DEC CAROL SINGING
Times and venues tbc.

MON 12 DEC Blackburn Cathedral
7.30pm LIGHT UP A LIFE SERVICE

2017:

**MON 2 JAN Westbury Gardens,
Blackburn BB1 1XF 7.15pm**
First full rehearsal of 2017 Dream of
Gerontius

**SAT 25 FEB Westholme Senior
School Theatre 10am - 4pm**
WORKSHOP WITH PAUL SPICER
Dream of Gerontius

SAT 18 MAR Blackburn Cathedral
t.b.a. Dress Rehearsal
7.30pm CONCERT - ELGAR DREAM OF
GERONTIUS

APRIL date tbc. Blackburn
Cathedral
ROYAL SOCIETY OF ST GEORGE
SERVICE

SUN 11 JUN East Lancs Hospice
2.30pm SUMMER CONCERT

THUR 22 JUN King George's Hall
FESTIVAL OF VOICES

MON 26 JUN END OF SEASON DINNER

Remembering our Members









It is with real sadness that we have cause to remember two of our choir members who passed away recently. However, we should celebrate their lives and their music. In this spirit, please bring them to mind for a moment as we hold our breath and prepare that first note on Nov 19th.

We were sad to hear of the death of Geoffrey Taylor on August 8th in a road accident. Geoffrey was a member of BMS for over forty years, from the early 60s until 2006. Members who knew Geoffrey will remember him with great fondness. Geoff was a lovely man and expounded, "Do you know my dear, if I shuffled off this mortal coil tomorrow, I've had a wonderful life, a life full of good friends and music, wonderful music". Indeed greatly missed and a lovely man.

On October 3rd we lost our good friend, John David, who lately, together with his wife Judith, had sung with us for a couple of seasons. He took up the cello as an adult and had a fine bass voice. He chaired Burnley Orchestra and Choir for 30 years and even formed a home-based string quartet, the Hoarstones Ensemble. Many local people will remember their famous "family and friends" rendering of *Messiah* at Christmas. John did not sing with us for long but we will remember him for his kindness and his enthusiastic support for BMS.

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

Also see www.blackburnmusicsociety.org.uk for regular updates.

-  24th October (Semichorus)
Duruflé: Lux Aeterna, Libera Me, In Paradisum
Puccini: Sanctus, Credo recap
-  31st October at Westbury Gardens. Tbc
-  7th Nov (Semichorus) Tbc
-  14th Nov (Semichorus) Full programme
-  19th Nov - day of concert:
 - 2.30 Duruflé Requiem
 - 3.30 Puccini
 - 4.30 Duruflé Quatre Motets (Semichorus)
-  21st November
Messiah (Watkins Shaw) Part II choruses
Amen chorus
His Yoke is Easy
And He Shall Purify
-  28th November Messiah, all choruses
-  5th December Carols for Light up a Life and read-through Part 1 Gerontius

FOCUS ON VOICE REPS

What do Voice Reps do and how will they work with you during the season?

Voice Reps have three main aspects to their role:-

- 🐛 Liaising with the Membership Secretary to keep everyone up to date with the membership of your section; from welcoming new members to following up on attendance, identifying any issues members may have and communicating anything you want the Membership Secretary to bring up at Committee.
- 🐛 Liaising with the Stage Manager on concert days to ensure your section are in the right place at the right time and that the performance runs smoothly, according to production plan.
- 🐛 Aiming to raise that team-spirit and comradeship that 'ups the game' of your section. *(For example, one way of doing this might be to organise a small social event open to your full section.)*

Our voice representatives have volunteered to give their time and energy to supporting you and your section, so do get to know them and remember that they will also need *your* support too!

Jenny Berry is lead Voice Rep and always on the front-desk at rehearsal with a cheery smile and offers of help and advice. Read about Jenny below and meet all the Voice Reps on the following pages...



SOPRANO VOICE REP: JENNY BERRY

Jenny is a retired teacher and has been singing with our society for about seven years. Her first concert was a performance of *Messiah* and Jenny recalls that everyone appeared to know it except her! She hopes that she has improved a bit since then. As time has gone on, Jenny says, she has become better at sight reading and enjoys just having a go. She jokes, "As Tom says, 'Sing out - it doesn't matter if it's the wrong note' so I do!"

One of the things Jenny enjoys is meeting choir members as they come through the door, learning new members' names and enjoying a chat with old friends. Jenny feels that it is vital that new members are made to feel welcome, whilst others who have a long history with BMS continue to be valued and this is the role of the Voice Rep.



SOPRANO VOICE REP: HEATHER BLUNT

Heather has been with BMS for 40 years and tells us that she has particularly enjoyed recent years because of our Musical Director's enthusiasm, talent and willingness to push us to our limits. In addition, Heather believes that singing helps with breathing and fitness, particularly during the aging process!

Heather decided to become a Voice Rep to help the development of the choir in terms of communication and to help move the choir towards less formality. She says that it is rewarding to see the Soprano section develop and also to see friendships developing between old and new members. Heather's message to all the Sop section is 'keep up the good work, continue to share your enthusiasm, be confident in your skills and expertise. Don't ever suffer in silence - just ask. We will know the answer and if we don't, we will find someone who does!'



ALTO 1 VOICE REP: CHRIS OLDHAM

Chris has been a member of Blackburn Music Society for 40 years, joining when Horace Tattersall was the Conductor. She has sung all her life and been a member of choirs since her school days, including a brief spell as a member of the London Philharmonic Choir singing with Michael Tippett, Benjamin Britten, and John Pritchard.

She loves major choral works such as Beethoven *Missa Solemnis*, Bach *B Minor Mass*, Verdi *Requiem* etc. She also enjoys the variety of music for the Summer Concerts.

She retired from the BMS Committee some two years ago and was happy to become a Voice Rep as a way of contributing to the organisation and getting to know members. She enjoys the fellowship and friendship of being with such like-minded, music-loving people.



ALTO 2 VOICE REP: MARGARET CRANE

Margaret joined BMS in 2008 after being inspired by Gareth Malone and encouraged by her sister who sings with the Hallé Choir.

As the size of our choir has grown quite considerably over the last few years, Margaret can see the need to develop the pastoral role of the Voice Reps and also to forge links between Committee and choir members.

Margaret says that the Altos are a very sociable section who enjoy meals out, especially regular curry evenings! She adds that new members are most welcome to join.

When not on duty at BMS, Margaret enjoys gardening and you might have seen her pushing a wheelbarrow around Towneley Hall gardens!



TENOR VOICE REP: DAVID CRESSY-HALL

David has many interests outside the choir, the main one being a consummate foodie and lover of 'real ale'. However, he is dedicated to BMS and wants to encourage close participation of voices within the Tenor section and a feeling of camaraderie and fellowship.

David greatly enjoys the social aspect of the choir and will continue trying to encourage and recruit new members.

David's first choir was in the 80's in Huddersfield when he joined Honley Male Voice Choir and he has never looked back!



BASS VOICE REP: PETER SHAW

Peter has sung with BMS for nine years and for the previous nine years attended many concerts as a member of the audience. Peter says that, having sat through nine annual performances of *Messiah*, he considered it was time to move over to the dark side, find his singing voice (Peter jokes, 'some might say that I am still looking for it!') and join in with the wonderful sound he was hearing.

Being part of BMS is great fun and a particularly enjoyable experience, says Peter. He adds that in addition to meeting with very friendly like-minded people, who are committed singers and take pride in their efforts, the rewards from taking on board the infectious enthusiasm, challenges and musical direction provide a great deal of pleasure and tremendous sense of achievement.

Peter says that, as Voice Rep, welcoming prospective and new members to BMS is an important first step. Introducing them to other members and settling them into the section are key to creating a good image of the choir and provide a basis for sharing the experience.



SEMICHORUS VOICE REP: LAURA LENAUGHAN

This is Laura's fourth season with BMS and she says that the first thing that impressed her about this choir was the openness and friendship offered by the choir members from day one.

Laura is also a member of City of Manchester Opera company, plays the piano and has recently dabbled in learning the celtic harp. She has an eclectic taste in music but finds the repertoire offered by BMS exciting and creates an opportunity to learn.

Laura says that she is proud to be a member of Blackburn Music Society and thinks that the Semichorus has a responsibility to highlight the talents of the choir as a whole.

Following in the footsteps of the Altos, she thinks it would be great to introduce a social aspect to the section. Laura hopes this would help to generate a team spirit which would in turn, create a supportive chemistry and bond that reflects in performance.

CAR PARKING IN BLACKBURN

P Feilden Street
 Mon - Sat 7am - 11pm
 (5-8 mins walk from Cathedral)

Up to 1 hour £1.00
 Up to 2 hours £1.50
 Up to 4 hours £2.50
 Up to 8 hours £3.70
 Over 8 hours £6.00

P Barton Street, Fleming
 Square and Weir Street Car Parks
 Mon - Sat 8am - 6pm (3-4mins walk
 from Cathedral) Excludes Bank

Holidays:
 Up to 1 hour £1.00
 Up to 2 hours £1.70
 Up to 3 hours £2.40
 Up to 5 hours £3.80
 Over 5 hours £8.00

P Jubilee Street (3-4 mins walk
 from Cathedral)

Permit holders only Monday - Friday
 7am - 6pm Excluding Bank holidays

P Market Street Lane (2 mins
 walk from Cathedral) Charges apply
 at all times.

Up to 1 hour £1.00
 Up to 2 hours £1.50
 Up to 3 hours £2.00
 Up to 4 hours £2.50
 Up to 5 hours £3.00
 Over 5 hours £5.00

P Market Roof Top Monday -
 Sunday

Up to 2 hours £1.50
 2 - 4 hours £2.50
 Over 4 hours £5.00

P Blackburn College Car Parks
 (5- 8 mins walk from Cathedral)
Free on Saturdays

Possibly free after 4.30pm weekdays

Parking is free on Council owned car
 parks within Blackburn town centre
 on **Sundays and Bank holidays**. Excludes
 privately owned car parks Market Roof
 Top and Market St Lane.

Could you be a Buddy?

Chris Llenaughan

Park Pretty – Park Safe

Well, here are the dark nights again, but we have some exciting concerts to look forward to, so that should keep us smiling and happy. Or does it?

A number of choir members have raised concerns about personal safety in town at night and some have even thought twice about singing at concerts because of these worries.

Due to these concerns, we would like to set up a Car Park Buddy Scheme. In simple terms, if you feel that you could muster and lead a small group of people from the Cathedral to a specific car park at the end of a performance, we would like to hear from you. We won't be asking you to wear a large hat or carry a flag - unless you want to.

Similarly, if you would like to be part of a chaperoned group to a specific car park, please let us know. We're aiming to keep things informal but will try to match up buddies with those who would like to be accompanied.

Still on the subject of parking – you will probably be aware that we have lost Feilden St free Saturday parking. However, Blackburn College car parks are still free on Saturday. The panel on the left summarises our options in terms of distance versus cost etc. Finally, if you can offer a car-share, you will be helping your colleagues, the planet and reducing your costs!

If you can help by becoming a Buddy or would like to register for a chaperoned group, then please email me (Chris) at bbmusicsoc@gmail.com

AN EXCITING LOCAL HISTORY PROJECT BEGINS



BMS archives will soon be held at Blackburn with Darwen Library.

This is an ongoing project and we are very grateful to keen archivist Jeff Cooper (Christine's husband) who has done an amazing job.

Jeff will be processing and sorting the material before handing it over to the library.

IF YOU HAVE ANY PHOTOGRAPHS, NEWSPAPER CUTTINGS,
 PROGRAMMES, POSTERS OR MEMORABILIA
 THAT YOU WISH TO DONATE, PLEASE SPEAK TO HEATHER BLUNT.

Who's Who? Who's New?

BMS Newsletter

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.

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

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Your Committee

JOY FIELDING	CHAIR
CAROLINE SCHOLEY	CONCERT MANAGER
MARY LEDWICK	TREASURER
SHEILA SIMPSON	LIBRARIAN
CHRIS LENAUGHAN	GENERAL SECRETARY
JOAN HORSFIELD	MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY
ESTHER SHAW	(PUBLICITY MANAGER)
MARGARET MCALLESTER	(FRONT OF HOUSE)
SUE PARKINSON	(STAGE MANAGER)
HEATHER BLUNT	(VOICE REP.)
MARGARET CRANE	(VOICE REP.)
SARAH WEAL	(ASS. GEN. SECRETARY)

Voice Representatives

SOPRANO: JENNY BERRY AND HEATHER BLUNT
ALTO: CHRIS OLDHAM AND MARGARET CRANE
TENOR: DAVID CRESSY-HALL
BASS: PETER SHAW
SEMICHORUS: LAURA LENAUGHAN

Job Role Holders

ALAN RATCLIFFE	ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN
JANE EAGLAND	WEBSITE MANAGER
KATE FULWELL	PROGRAMME SECRETARY
PETER SHAW	CASHIER
DAVID CRESSY-HALL	SCORES AND STAGE SET-UP