



BLACKBURN
MUSIC
 SOCIETY

Newsletter
 August 2017

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A Fabulous Season Ahead!

Joy Fielding

Hello and welcome to another musical season with BMS.

Our opening concert is on Saturday 21st October in Westholme theatre and features *Eternal Light* - a requiem by Howard Goodall. This work was commissioned as a choral-dance piece and we will be joined by a group of talented young dancers from St Wilfrid's Academy Blackburn. This setting of the Latin Mass and selected poems contains some beautiful melodies and two exciting Presto challenges ('Factum est silentium' and 'Tum angelus tertius claxit').

Messiah is on December 2nd this year and we have six weeks preparation time. Wonderful – it gives us all a chance to really get to grips with this piece. We could have every note and every choral entry perfect including the Hallelujah chorus from memory!

On Saturday 12th May we perform Walton's choral spectacular *Belshazzar's Feast* in Bolton with Bolton Symphony Orchestra and Bolton Catholic Musical Society. Louis Hurst is our baritone soloist and Tom will be enjoying himself on the podium - in charge. You might like to note that the National Youth Choir performed this wonderful work at this year's PROMS. It is worth a listen if you haven't already done so. You will find a link in the Staccato Notes section of this newsletter.

Looking forward to everything, hope you are too.

Joy

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

bbmusicsoc@gmail.com

A Fabulous Season Ahead!

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AUTUMN HIGHLIGHTS

Monday 4th September
 First rehearsal at St Mary's college

Monday 18th September
 Open rehearsal – invite your friends!

Saturday 21st October
 Autumn Concert

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Mon 4 September 2017 7.15pm
St Mary's College, Blackburn
 Weekly rehearsals recommence.
 Please remember to return your
 Summer Concert scores!
 Annual choir subscription (£60) due by
 Mon 25th September.

Mon 18 September 2017 7pm
St Mary's College, Blackburn
OPEN REHEARSAL for *Eternal Light*
 Invite your friends to join us.
 All singers welcome!

Sat 21 October 2017 Concert 7pm
Rehearsal: 2pm
 Croston Theatre, Westholme School,
 Meins Rd, Blackburn
 Chilcott *A Little Jazz Mass*, Goodall
Eternal Light and Rutter pieces.

Sat 2 December 2017 7pm
Rehearsal: 2pm
Blackburn Cathedral
 Handel *Messiah*

Mon 11 December 2017
Service 7.30pm.
Rehearsal: 7pm
 Blackburn Cathedral
 Light up a Life Service supporting East
 Lancashire Hospice.

2018 Key Dates

Sat 10 March 2018 10am - 4pm
Croston Theatre, Westholme School
SINGING DAY AND WORKSHOP
 with Tom Newall
 Walton *Belshazzar's Feast*

Sun 22 April 2018 (time tbc.)
 Blackburn Cathedral
 Royal Society of St George Service

Sat 12 May (time tbc.)
 Victoria Hall, Bolton
 Concert with BCMCS and BSO
 Walton *Belshazzar's Feast*

June (date tbc.)
 King George's Hall, Blackburn
 Blackburn Festival of Voices

Sun 24 June 2018
 Pleasington Priory
SUMMER CONCERT & AFTERNOON TEA



Autumn Programme

Chilcott: A Little Jazz Mass

Rutter: For the Beauty of the Earth

Goodall: Psalm 23

Rutter: Look at the World

Goodall: Eternal Light

AUTUMN REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

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

 **4th September 7.15pm**
 Read through rehearsal

 **11th September 7.15pm**
 Goodall: Kyrie, Revelation
 Rutter: Look at the World
 Chilcott: Kyrie

 **18th September - Open Rehearsal 7pm**
 Goodall: Lead Kindly Light, Lacrymosa,
 Litany, Dies Irae, Recordare

 **25th September 6.45pm**
 Rutter: For the Beauty of the Earth
 Goodall: Psalm 23
 Chilcott: Gloria, Sanctus, Benedictus and then recap

 **2nd October 6.45pm**
 Goodall: Tum Angelus, Agnus Dei, In Paradisum
 Chilcott: Agnus Dei

 **9th October 6.45pm**
 Recap rehearsal

 **16th October 6.45pm**
 Full programme

 **21st October 2pm**
 Dress rehearsal 2pm. Concert 7pm.

FROM THE HEART OF THE CHOIR...

What does BMS mean to you? Do you have a story to tell?

We would love to publish your experiences of being a part of BMS. If you have any thoughts or anecdotes that you would like to share in future newsletters, please email bbmusicsoc@gmail.com

In the meantime, Madeline Whitton (first alto) and Martin Sales (first tenor) each tells their story...



56 years of delights!

Madeline Whitton

1960 I crept onto the back row of the Alto section of BMS, and there I discovered a Box of Delights that still keeps unfolding its treasures. How lucky am I?

As long as we have people who are prepared to give of their time and ability so that Blackburn should live artistically, our town will remain great and keep its soul. Hubert Briggs, The Blackburn Times, 1962

The list of world-renowned composers and internationally acclaimed soloists and conductors who have performed with BMS is breath-taking. The four brilliant

musical directors who have led the choir while I have been a member have guided us to undreamed-of heights and are well documented, so I will just add a few personal memories.

1963 A "Royal" performance of Verdi's *Requiem* in the presence of Princess Margaret and Lord Snowden.

1965 & 1967 We saw ourselves on tiny black and white TV screens as the choir recorded six Sunday programmes from a factory in Blackburn and a holiday camp in Prestatyn.

During this period, BMS also made annual appearances at The International Eisteddfod in Llangollen, adjudicated on one occasion by Dr Herbert Howells. We were also invited to record an item for the archive of the 21st Eisteddfod.

1975 The story of a lost suit! For conductor Horace Tattersall's 70th Birthday concert, soloist John Mitchinson flew in from Holland. Unfortunately, his suitcase, containing his dress suit went elsewhere. A replacement was hurriedly purchased from Altrincham by a member who subsequently mislaid his car key and someone had to race into town

to have a replacement key cut! No one knew of this near-miss as Mr Mitchinson coolly took his place on the platform after the first item!

1991 A Nationwide Musical Experience supporting Voices for Hospices. Choirs in a hundred venues nationwide tuned in to a BBC Radio2 countdown to a simultaneous "baton drop" as we all performed Haydn's *Creation*. BMS sang in Salford Cathedral.

1998 How could we forget the thrill and pride of singing with choirs from Bolton and Nelson, in the magnificent Berlioz *Grande Messe des Morts* in The Bridgewater Hall?

2013 - to present day...

A new conductor, Tom, has burst onto the scene with such vision, vigour and enthusiasm that the choir has begun to smile, laugh and even dance as we go from strength to strength, doubting, hesitating and finally performing with a capital 'P'!

New challenges are undoubtedly on the way. Blackburn Music Society has enriched my life. Thank you so much.

Madeline



A Life-long Love of Singing – Martin Sales

Coming from a family of singers, Martin has always enjoyed choral singing. He remains highly committed to his hobby and sings both with BMS and with 'The A Cappella Singers' formed in February 1995, of which he is one of the original founders. Of his time with BMS Martin remembers...

1958 Having just left school, I was introduced to the Society by a BMS member who was repainting part of my house! I joined BMS in September 1958 and was introduced to Horace Tattersall and as a new member, was given a seat on the back row. This was my first experience of a large choir which had around 140 singers at the time and a tenor section of around 26 voices.

1960 Within two years I was brought forward by Horace and invited to join the Small Mixed Choir of 40 voices. This small choir entered Music Festivals and gave performances away from the main choir. One of the highlights was at the Freckleton Music Festival, where we finished third, leaving Huddersfield Choral Society in fifth place. There was also a small ladies' choir and the three choirs ran for many years, with the small choirs rehearsing at St George's Presbyterian Church on Preston New Road and the main choir in King George's Hall in Blackburn. This era included several ITV Broadcasts both live and recorded; BBC Radio Broadcasts and recordings were also made. At this time BMS had its own orchestra but over the years this became too expensive and the orchestra and choir went their separate ways.

1963 One of the highlights was performing in front of Royalty in King George's Hall. Princess Margaret and Anthony Armstrong Jones came to Blackburn for a series of events. Security was high and both singers and orchestra had to have a special pass to get into the hall. BMS performed Verdi's *Requiem* to a full house and as a result of this concert, Horace Tattersall was awarded an MBE.

Following Horace's retirement, Jim Eastham was introduced as Musical Director. Jim introduced BMS to bigger and more complicated works and this was a time when the choir improved greatly. Jim was eventually given a position at RNCM in Manchester and later he became choir master of Salford Choral Society. This move enabled us to join with Salford Choral Society in several large concerts, both here in Blackburn and in Manchester.

1979-80 Was an unsettled time for the choir when a decision was made that all members must attend at least 75% of the rehearsals, in order to take part in a performance. In the end the rule was removed as having many choir members unable to meet the criteria, proved to be detrimental.

Since then, I have also had the privilege of singing with the Liverpool Philharmonic, Halle, Newcastle Singers, Carlisle Area Choir and with a group forming themselves from Workington, Cockermouth, Carlisle and Kendal. There are many other outlets that I have performed with. Having been a sales representative and covering the top half of the UK has given me many opportunities to attend choir practices with many choirs and on the odd occasion performing with them.

Present Day I have thoroughly enjoyed the various programmes that have been performed, but perhaps my favourites are *Sea Symphony*, *Verdi's Requiem* and *The Dream of Gerontius*. Others include *Elijah*, *Messiah*, *Carmina Burana* and many others and in the main, I must state that I have enjoyed performing in front of a live audience. Whilst now growing old, I feel that I still have a lot to offer as a first tenor and hope to continue for a few more years before finishing my musical choral singing.

BMS AGM TO BE HELD 2ND OCTOBER 2017

Current nominations for 2017-18
Committee are:-

NAMED OFFICERS

CHAIR

Joy Fielding

CONCERT SECRETARY

Open for nomination

TREASURER

Open for nomination

GENERAL SECRETARY

Chris Llenaughan

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Gill Broom

LIBRARIAN

Sheila Simpson

GENERAL COMMITTEE

MEMBERS

Margaret Crane

Kate Fulwell

Liz Hacking

Margaret McAllester

Caroline Scholey

Esther Shaw

Sue Parkinson

Sarah Weal

**COMMITTEE NOMINATION
FORMS WILL BE AVAILABLE
AT SEPT. REHEARSALS.
Completed (hard copy) forms
to be returned to the General
Secretary by 25th Sept.**

Supporting BMS

As we begin the new season we are looking for your help in supporting the Society. You will remember that we no longer have access to the charity shop which has helped support the Society financially in recent years. You will also recall that our Treasurer, Mary Ledwick, wrote to everyone earlier this year asking for support in putting forward alternative fundraising ideas, in order that we can maintain our annual subscription at the current level. We still need your ideas but here are two initiatives to start with. Please let us know what you think by emailing any of the Committee at bbmusicoc@gmail.com

News about the Charity Shop

Margaret McAllester

We have news of an alternative venue for the charity shop. Blackburn Market have a unit which is available at £84, which is less than we were paying at the previous shop. Access is from 8.30am to 5.30pm each day and filling the unit would be on the Monday morning. Stock has to be covered at night ... there is CCTV and the market is alarmed at night.

The unit is near the entrance to the bus depot and access to the market is through the main vehicle entrance on the opposite side from the unit. The distance between the two is about 40 mtrs, so the transporting of goods is much further than usual and obviously the clearing out at the end of the week would be the same. Quality and type of items would have to be considered fairly carefully as a result of this.

We would need a number of willing helpers and much publicity, so here is the big question! IS there anyone in the choir who would be willing to take charge of organising this? We would also need a good number of helpers, so all help would be greatly appreciated.

We have no date at the moment as we are sounding out how enthusiastic the response is! If you would like to be part of this, please let me (Margaret) know by email above.

Have a brew with BMS!

Chris Llenaughan

Following the hugely successful performance of *The Dream of Gerontius* earlier this year, I was moved to create a piece of artwork to commemorate the event that meant so much to many of us. Titled 'Standing Ovation' the painting is a representation of the joyful closing moments of our concert.

We are aiming to use the painting to design a unique BMS ceramic mug, which would be available for members to purchase to help raise funds for the Society. We hope to have samples available at September rehearsals.

Staccato Notes!

Ticket Sales

Revised telephone numbers for ticket enquiries this season:-

Margaret McAllester: 01254 201978

Sue Parkinson: 01254 885346

Discount Tickets

New for this season, advance ticket purchase for the Autumn Concert and *Messiah* will save concert-goers £2 per ticket against the on-the-door price.

Messiah Sellout!

Messiah is always a sellout, make sure you book early to avoid disappointment!

Christmas Crackers

OK so it is August BUT a reminder - don't forget your Christmas crackers for *Messiah* concert day teatime break – let's make it a tradition!

Don't miss this!

PROM *Belshazzar's Feast*
BBC Radio iPlayer

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b0902qmm>

(starts about 1hr 38min in, and is available until 6th Sept.)



View from the Podium

Tom Newall

Welcome to our 2017/18 season!

I'm delighted to announce another exciting season of events for Blackburn Music Society.

We're kicking off early this year on October 21st and a return to the Croston Theatre at Westholme School to present some contemporary choral classics by John Rutter, Bob Chilcott and Howard Goodall. The centrepiece will be Goodall's

Eternal Light, a moving and yet uplifting work and we are delighted to be joined by dancers from St. Wilfrid's School.

We join with Lancashire Chamber Orchestra and a fantastic team of soloists for our annual performance of Handel's *Messiah* in the Cathedral on 2nd December. This is a fabulous tradition we are truly proud of, and a concert not to be missed!

In the New Year, we are delighted to be joining forces for the first time in May with Bolton Catholic Musical and Choral Society and Bolton Symphony Orchestra for a performance of Walton's epic *Belshazzar's Feast* at Victoria Hall, Bolton. This is one of the most important choral works of the 20th Century and with some English orchestral favourites in the first half, this promises to be a wonderful evening!

We close our season at Pleasington Priory with an afternoon of Summery Choral Music. For this concert, we are delighted to welcome Guest Conductor Helen Harrison to work with us for the first time.

I look forward to seeing you this season!

Tom

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 of any kind, please let us know.

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

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Your Current Committee

JOY FIELDING	CHAIR
<i>ROLE VACANT</i>	CONCERT SECRETARY
MARY LEDWICK	TREASURER
SHEILA SIMPSON	LIBRARIAN
CHRIS LENAUGHAN	GENERAL SECRETARY
<i>ROLE VACANT</i>	MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY
ESTHER SHAW	(PUBLICITY MANAGER)
MARGARET MCALLESTER	(FRONT OF HOUSE)
CAROLINE SCHOLEY	(STAGE MANAGER)
SUE PARKINSON	(GEN. COMMITTEE)
MARGARET CRANE	(VOICE REP.)
SARAH WEAL	(ASS. GEN. SECRETARY)

Voice Representatives

SOPRANO: JENNY BERRY
ALTO: MARGARET CRANE
TENOR: MIKE WATERS
BASS: PETER SHAW
SEMICHORUS: LAURA LENAUGHAN

Job Role Holders

ALAN RATCLIFFE	ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN
JANE EAGLAND	WEBSITE MANAGER
KATE FULWELL	PROGRAMME SECRETARY
BETTY CHIPPENDALE	PROGRAMME SALES
PETER SHAW	CASHIER