



Newsletter

BLACKBURN
MUSIC
SOCIETY

January 2018

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An exciting year ahead !

Joy Fielding

As we enter 2018, I would like to wish everyone a very happy and successful New Year. What an exciting year this promises to be!

The highlight will of course be our collaboration with Bolton Catholic Musical and Choral Society and Bolton Symphony Orchestra for the demanding performance of Walton's *Belshazzar's Feast* in May conducted by Tom. This project has been in the making for over 18 months and has involved a considerable amount of time and dedication from committee members; not least Mary Ledwick to whom I would like to express special thanks for her exceptional work in enabling the acquisition of a very large Arts Council grant which means that we can now pursue this project.

Another new venture this year will be our summer concert - once again in the charming Pleasington Priory. Committee members Kate Fulwell and Liz Hacking who have been working with our guest conductor Helen Harrison to create an album of your best-loved choral pieces which will be a joy to perform.

This really is an exciting year and I hope you will join us and sing your hearts out!

Joy

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

bbmusicsoc@gmail.com

Dates for Your Diary

Rehearsal Schedule

Staccato Notes

BMS Committee Update

Your Committee

HIGHLIGHTS

Saturday 10 March
Belshazzar's Feast
SINGING DAY AND WORKSHOP

Saturday 12 May
Belshazzar's Feast
CONCERT

Sunday 24th June
SUMMER CONCERT

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Mon 8 January 2018 7.15pm.
St Mary's College, Shear Brow.
Weekly rehearsals recommence.

Sat 10 March 2018 10 - 4pm
Salesbury Memorial Hall
SINGING DAY AND WORKSHOP
with Tom Newall
Walton *Belshazzar's Feast*.

Sun 22 April 2018
Blackburn Cathedral
Royal Society of St George Service.

Mon 30 April -Joint BMS/ BCMCS
rehearsal in Blackburn.

Fri 4 May - Joint BMS/BCMCS
rehearsal in Bolton (*location tbc.*)

Mon 7 May - Full run (*Venue tbc.*)

Fri 11 May - Evening. Tutti rehearsal
with orchestra in Victoria Hall,
Bolton.

Sat 12 May 2018
Victoria Hall, Bolton
Afternoon, rehearsal.
Evening concert with BCMCS and
BSO. Walton *Belshazzar's Feast*.

Thurs 21 June 2018
King George's Hall, Blackburn
Blackburn Festival of Voice.

Sun 24 June 2018
Pleasington Priory SUMMER
CONCERT and afternoon tea in the
Butler's Arms.

Sat 10 November 2018
Blackburn Cathedral.
Commemorative Concert marking
the 100th anniversary of The
Armistice, with Blackburn with
Darwen Band, including Jenkins' *The
Armed Man*.

Sat 1 December 2018
Blackburn Cathedral. *Messiah*

Sat 23 March 2019
Blackburn Cathedral SPRING
CONCERT

Sunday 9 June 2019 SUMMER
CONCERT

Rehearsal Schedule

8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th January

Introduction to the summer programme with Helen Harrison.

5th February

Tom Newall returns, to begin rehearsals for *Belshazzar's Feast*. BMS will be singing choir 1 and BCMCS will be singing choir 2.

Tom will also intersperse some summer programme pieces during the following rehearsals (numbers are rehearsal figures):-

12th February - Beginning-3, 53-54, 4-6, 6-7

19th February - 15-24, 8-11

26th February - 28-38, recap

5th March - 55-67, 67-78

10th March - SATURDAY WORKSHOP DAY, Salesbury

12th March - 11-14, 15-24, recap

19th March - 26-27, 39-40, recap

26th March - 41-51, recap

2nd April - No rehearsal (Easter)

9th April - tbc

16th April - tbc

23rd April - tbc

30th April - joint BMS/BCMCS rehearsal in Blackburn

4th May - FRIDAY pm. joint BMS/BCMCS rehearsal in Bolton
(location tbc.)

7th May - Full run (*Venue to be confirmed*)

11th May - FRIDAY pm. Tutti rehearsal with orchestra in
Victoria Hall, Bolton

12th May - SATURDAY afternoon, rehearsal with orchestra
in Victoria Hall, Bolton. Evening concert.

14th May

Helen Harrison returns, to recommence weekly rehearsals for our summer programme. An eclectic mix of anthems and well-loved choral pieces; a chance to live and breathe your favourite music!

Staccato Notes!

John Rutter Workshop

If you have signed up to go to this event as a BMS member, you will need to pay your fee by Jan 8th to secure your place.

Ticket Sales

Revised telephone numbers for ticket enquiries this season:-

Margaret McAllester: 01254 201978

Sue Parkinson: 01254 885346

We are hugely indebted to **Pete Asher** who has set up our new on-line ticketing system with *See Tickets*. This has enabled us to sell tickets out of area and increased our reach.

BMS Archive Exhibition

We are thrilled that BMS have been given an exhibition opportunity at Blackburn Library. Our archives will be displayed between February 12th until the 28th 2018 but **we need your help!**

We need anyone with time to help set up our displays. This is a really important project for the history and promotion of our society. If you can help in any way, however trivial it may seem to you, please email bbmusicsoc@gmail.com

Saturday Workshop led by Tom Newall

We will be running our annual workshop at Salesbury Memorial on Saturday 10th March. There will be a fee for this event and you are not obliged to attend but the intention is to enhance your experience of the *Belshazzar's Feast* project and develop your skills and knowledge. The reduced cost for BMS members will be £15 and you will be sent an invitation in due course. (Non-members £18).

BMS Committee Update



BMS Committee meet four or five times per year to plan forthcoming season programmes and progress BMS business. Every member has a role to play and sub-committees and individuals meet more regularly, to work on specific tasks and report back to main committee meetings.

Main committee meetings always review previous concert performances in terms of quality of delivery, audience take-up and financial balance. Naturally, lessons learned influence forward planning and there are numerous tasks currently on our agenda. To give you a flavour of the work we are currently doing, here are some of our main topics:-

- Collaboration project with BCMCS and BSO for the *Belshazzar's Feast* concert in May. Planning for this has taken 18 months to date and involved a vast amount of work. We are now into the detailed planning for the performance.
- Saturday Workshop with Tom Newall – now reaching detailed planning stage.
- Summer Concert programme planning. Selection of pieces and development of a BMS anthology of favourite choral pieces, which BMS members will be asked to buy copies of to keep for use in future events.
- Detailed planning for the Afternoon Tea event which will follow the Summer Concert in June.
- Design and preparation for the BMS Archive Exhibition in February.
- Forward programme planning for season 18/19 and booking of venues for rehearsals and concerts. Negotiations and contract preparation for soloists and musicians.

You will be aware that we are also looking to recruit a new Musical Director. A sub-committee is now in place and met before Christmas to prepare job specifications and advertising material. Tom is definitely going to be a hard act to follow and we wish to attract high caliber candidates. With this in mind it has been recognised that we may need to offer flexibility on weekly rehearsal days. The committee will give you regular updates on progress and if this is necessary, be assured that we will be consulting all choir members.

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 Committee 17/18

JOY FIELDING	CHAIR
GILLIAN BROOM	MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY
MARGARET CRANE	GEN. COMMITTEE/ VOICE REP.
KATE FULWELL	PROGRAMME SECRETARY
LIZ HACKING	DEPUTY LIBRARIAN
MARY LEDWICK	TREASURER
CHRIS LENAUGHAN	GENERAL SECRETARY
MARGARET McALLESTER	FRONT OF HOUSE
SUE PARKINSON	GEN. COMMITTEE
ESTHER SHAW	PUBLICITY MANAGER
SHEILA SIMPSON	LIBRARIAN
SARAH WEAL	ASS. GEN. SECRETARY

Voice Representatives

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

Job Role Holders

JANE ENGLAND	WEBSITE MANAGER
ALAN RATCLIFFE	ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN
CAROLINE SCHOLEY	STAGE MANAGER
PETER SHAW	CASHIER