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- Monday 2nd Sept.
First rehearsal at St Mary's College.
- Open Rehearsals
2nd, 9th and 16th Sept.
- Monday 30th Sept.
Last date for Committee Nominations.
- Monday 7th Oct AGM
- Saturday 26th Oct.
Singing Day
- Saturday 9th Nov.
Autumn Concert

SUMMER HAS PASSED IN A FLASH!

ABI KITCHING

I hope you've had a wonderful time and feel refreshed and ready to start back again. Congratulations for all we achieved last year. I went away with so many memorable moments from all of our concerts. I hope you enjoyed them as much as I did.

This season is set to be a fantastic one. We will take on Mozart's famous *Requiem* first, and will hold a Come and Sing day for the piece in October. This is a great work to get new people into singing, so use this as an opportunity to invite friends who might be interested. Of course, *Messiah* will follow with the brilliant Northern Baroque Sinfonia, and in the spring we will get to know Rossini's *Petite Messe Solennelle* with some outstanding soloists. We are very lucky to have such great repertoire to get stuck into - I hope you're looking forward to the challenge!

We are so fortunate to be joined this season by Jenny Rust, our new Vocal Coach. I'm excited to see and hear her work with you as individuals and as a choir. This coaching is available for everyone and the more people who can get involved, the better! We are now part of a pool of very select choirs across the UK who offer vocal coaching to members. I hope this sends a message far and wide that Blackburn Music Society is an exciting, active and ambitious choir to be in.

Really looking forward to seeing you all next week. Enjoy the last of your holidays until then!

Abi



CHAIR'S COMMENT

JOY FIELDING

I hope you have all enjoyed a good summer break and are looking forward to a really good sing in September.

Mozart Requiem is such a wonderful piece to perform. A favourite classic of choral societies everywhere, and a good piece to tempt your friends and contacts with. Why not invite someone to our open rehearsals? They might discover (or rediscover) the buzz of singing in a large choir! We will be accompanied at this concert by a talented group of instrumental music students, recommended and directed by Abi and drawn from Manchester and the surrounding area. It promises to be a great concert.

As well as enjoying the singing, I hope many of you will think about expanding your commitment to BMS by finding a volunteer position that you might be able to commit to. Your Music Society needs you, in every way. Please look at the numerous volunteer opportunities available and see if there is one that you think you might enjoy doing. **It doesn't matter whether you've been singing with us for two years or twenty two. Look through the list and if you have some relevant skills, an hour or two a week to spare, and a desire to help, then ask questions, speak to me, find out what's involved. It doesn't have to take over your life – any help you offer will be appreciated by the whole choir and will make a difference.**

I am privileged to enjoy a paid role as BMS accompanist, and hope I can continue to play my part there (literally!). But I have also had the privilege of volunteering for the past seven years as Chair of your Committee. Committees are great teams and I have been blessed and amazed by the skills and commitment of BMS trustees. At this year's AGM I will, however, not put my name forward for Chair, but will still volunteer to help where I can and promote Blackburn Music Society energetically.

It's good to volunteer with BMS. If you fancy it, give it a try this season.

Joy

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. 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.

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.

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

(C) Indicates that the role requires membership of the BMS Committee.

Other roles may be elected to committee, though this is not essential.

BMS has become an extremely active and vibrant music society!

This season we have thirty weekly rehearsals, four major concerts, regular voice coaching sessions, two singing days plus commitment to community events throughout the year. As you can imagine, the workload to organise, manage and administer these events is substantial and requires commitment from a large number of people.

We are looking for several people to help by giving some their time to support BMS as we move into a new and exciting season. Whether you have just a small amount of time available occasionally or might be able to assist on a more regular basis, please consider whether you could lend a hand. We are particularly looking for people to work in the following areas:

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 (usually 5 or 6 each season) and are responsible for directing the strategy, organisation and business of the Society.

You don't need to undertake a formally recognised role (see panel on the left) to be a committee member, as there places available for general committee membership. If you are interested in becoming a committee member, please contact Joy Fielding for an informal chat before 30th Sept (last date for committee nominations). Committee Nomination Forms are available from the General Secretary and these will be circulated to all members at the start of the season, with an explanation of the nomination process. Committee members are formally elected by the choir members at the AGM and serve for one year.

Other job roles: A wide range of skills are needed to organise and run the Society and all job roles are formally-defined (see panel on the left). Some job roles require membership of the committee, whilst others can be undertaken outside of committee commitments. 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. Let us know if you would like to help in an informal way.

All job role specifications are available on request from the Secretary at bbmusicsoc@gmail.com

Volunteering: Every rehearsal and event needs volunteers. It is really helpful if we know up-front our 'go to' people for reliable help. We particularly need people to set up chairs, porter piano and amp (roadies!), make the brews, sell programmes, steward front of house, collect in scores, help concert clear up, write concert reviews and news items etc. Please let us know if you can help in any way.

A MESSAGE FROM BMS TREASURER MARY LEDWICK

BMS TREASURER

Mary Ledwick retires from her role as Treasurer at the end of season 2018/19.

Having served BMS as a Committee member for 6 years and Treasurer for 5 years, Mary has now decided to step down from the role.

During her time in this role Mary has been pivotal in the implementation of a range of efficient financial processes which now underpin the management of the Society's funds.

She has worked tirelessly throughout her tenure and has secured additional funding from several areas including Gift Aid, Blackburn with Darwen Arts Council, Easy Fundraising and, most notably, the Arts Council.

In the summer of 2017, Mary gave up much of her holiday time to work on the lottery funding bid which secured substantial funding towards our collaboration project with Bolton Symphony Orchestra and Bolton Catholics Choral Society. This enabled BMS to take part in the magnificent performance of *Belshazzar's Feast*. This would definitely not have happened without Mary's tenacious work behind the scenes.

It has been a pleasure to work alongside Mary and she will be a hard act to follow!

Chris LENAUGHAN

BMS Secretary

TREASURER WANTED: We have just come to the end of our 2018 – 19 financial year and are now starting our 2019 - 2020 year. As I will not be continuing as BMS Treasurer, we are urgently looking for someone to take on the job. Experience of accounting isn't needed, but whoever takes on the job will need to be able to use a simple spreadsheet and to manage our bank account online. We are fortunate in having a cashier who deals with all the counting and banking of cash and cheques. If anyone who feels that they might be interested in taking on the job but wants further information, I will be happy to discuss this if you get in touch.

2019-2020 SUBSCRIPTIONS: The basic annual subscription for the coming season will be £70. We try to keep our subscription as low as possible and you may be aware that £70 is a significantly lower subscription than most similar organisations. As our costs are rising, the additional weekly or periodical contributions made by those who feel able to make them are needed and much appreciated. Subscriptions are due by the end of September and can be paid in cash, or directly into our Santander bank account.

Sort code 09-01-29
Account number 03825862

EASYFUNDRAISING: We currently have 21 people who have signed up to [easyfundraising](http://easyfundraising.org.uk) which enables BMS to receive donations from suppliers when people shop online. Thanks to those who have signed up we have raised £96 so far, for BMS.

If you haven't yet signed up and are willing to do so please take a look at: www.easyfundraising.org.uk With a large number of people using easyfundraising regularly we could have a significant new source of income for BMS, so please help if you can.

Thank you for your continued support for BMS

Mary



INTRODUCING BMS VOCAL COACH JENNY RUST

I am delighted to be joining Blackburn Music Society, to continue with and grow the vocal lessons that Abi has started.

I have been teaching vocal technique for a nearly a decade, as I started teaching whilst I was studying as a postgraduate, firstly at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, and then afterwards at the Royal Northern College of Music.

Alongside teaching singing, I regularly perform opera, oratorio and recitals. My opera highlights include the following roles; Fiordiligi (*Così fan Tutte*), Adina (*L'elisir d'amore*), Lady Billows (*Albert Herring*) and Pamina (*The Magic Flute*). Concert highlights include performing a duet with Sir Willard White at Bridgewater Hall, which was broadcasted on Classic FM; guest artist with Opera North Childrens' Chorus concert and *Porgy and Bess* with Huddersfield Choral Society.

Whilst working with BMS, I plan to focus a lot on vocal techniques as these are the foundations to a beautiful sound and also a healthy voice. I aim to improve how we sing our vowels, how we breathe and to help build our stamina. A major aim is to help the choir get less vocally fatigued at the end of a choir rehearsal and concert.

I have a friendly teaching manner and I hope that you will find the sessions fun and relaxed as well as improving our singing. The sessions will run on a rotation basis, and you will be in a group with the same voice part. The timetable will be planned so that no-one misses the same bit of choir rehearsal every week.

Please feel free to contact me at bbmusicsoc@gmail.com with any questions you may have. I'm really excited to be working with the choir in September and looking forward to exciting times ahead!

Jenny

DIARY DATES Sept 2019 – Dec 2019

Musical Director : Abi Kitching

*Rehearsals take place every Monday (except Bank Holidays)
7.15pm - 9.15pm at St Mary's College, Shear Brow, Blackburn*

Start of season Mon 2 September

OPEN REHEARSALS (free for guest singers)

Invite your friends to come along and give us a try.

Mon 2, 9 and 16 September 2019 7.15pm

Requiem in D Minor Mozart

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Mon 7 October 8.30pm St Mary's College

AUTUMN SINGING DAY

Sat 26 October 10am – 3.30pm

Wesley Hall, Feilden St, Blackburn

Requiem in D Minor Mozart

Tickets: £12, non-BMS £15 (under 19s free)

AUTUMN CONCERT

Sat 9 November 7pm Blackburn Cathedral

Requiem in D Minor Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Sat 7 December 7pm Blackburn Cathedral

Messiah George Frideric Handel

LIGHT UP A LIFE SERVICE Community Event

Mon 9 December (*provisional date*) Blackburn Cathedral

Meet 7pm for rehearsal prior to service

CHRISTMAS CAROLS in Blackburn Market

Sat 14 December 11am - 1pm

2020 Diary Dates

OPEN REHEARSALS (free for guest singers)

Invite your friends to come along and give us a try.

Mon 6, 13 and 20 January 7.15pm St Mary's College

***Petite Messe Solennelle* Rossini**

***Cantique de Jean Racine* Fauré**

BMS OUTREACH DAY

Sat 18 Jan 10am – 3.30pm

Wesley Hall, Feilden St, Blackburn

Tickets: £12, non-BMS £15 (under 19s free)

SPRING CONCERT

Sat 21 March 7pm Queen Elizabeth Grammar School

***Petite Messe Solennelle* Gioachino Rossini**

***Cantique de Jean Racine* Fauré *Op. 11* Gabriel Fauré**

ROYAL SOCIETY of St. GEORGE SERVICE Community Event

Sun 26 April (*provisional date*) Blackburn Cathedral

Meet 1.30pm for rehearsal prior to service

SUMMER Concert

Sun 7 June 2.30pm Pleasington Priory (*t.b.c.*)

AROUND THE WORLD IN SONG

Tickets: £8 (under 19s free) in advance and on the door.

ANNUAL DINNER

Mon 8 June (*provisional date*)

Unless stated otherwise BMS concert tickets are:

£14 in advance, £16 on the door, under 19s free

Tickets available online :

visit our website : www.blackburnmusicsociety.org.uk

or email : bbmusic soc@gmail.com

Promoting your Society *What could you do to support BMS?*

Open Events: **Open Rehearsals** will take place during September and January this season. We are organising a **Singing Day in October** which will focus on *Mozart Requiem* and also a **BMS Outreach Day** in January which will be an informal workshop. These events are a really important way of introducing new singers to BMS. Please advertise these events to your friends who enjoy singing and any other music organisations that you know of.

Community events: As a choir we perform three major concerts a year and we also hope that members will attend our community events to celebrate our success and to raise the profile of the choir. Please do note all dates in your diary and try to attend these events if you can.

Publicity material: Publicity material to help you spread the word will be provided as the season progresses. Please look for locations to display our posters and flyers and either let a committee member know, or better still, take some material along yourself. Online advertising via email and social media are now important ways of promoting our society and our concerts. Please circulate, post, share as widely as you can. If you need help or advice on these methods of promotion, please let us know.

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. Let us know if you need more information. We can even help with artwork if needed.

Concert Tickets: Actively selling concert tickets is a vital aspect of our business. Yes, we said 'business'! There is no avoiding the fact that we have to remain financially viable. Please do continue to sell tickets on a personal basis but also note that it can be more convenient for some people (particularly those not living in our area), to purchase tickets online. Our system with Ticket Source is easy to use and individual concerts are advertised on-line, on our web-page and in our publicity material.

And finally...

Your feedback and ideas are important to the Society. For example - what do you think of the blue logo and colour scheme trialled in this newsletter? We are currently looking for fresh ideas, so do let us know what you think. You can contact any of the committee at the central email address.

*JOY FIELDING
GILLIAN BROOM
JOHN BRUNT
MARGARET CRANE
LIZ HACKING
MARY LEDWICK
CHRIS LENAUGHAN
SUE PARKINSON
SARAH WEAL*

*CHAIR
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY
GEN. COMMITTEE
GEN. COMMITTEE
LIBRARIAN
TREASURER
GENERAL SECRETARY
GEN. COMMITTEE
ASSISTANT SECRETARY*

**We're on
the web !**

www.blackburnmusicsociety.org.uk

