

***Plymouth Philharmonic Choir
Associate Members
Newsletter – September 2011***

A very successful 40th Anniversary Year:

The Choir couldn't have wished for a better start to the season – a sell-out concert (Carl Orff's Carmina Burana and John Rutter's Magnificat). In his review of this concert, Philip Buttall (Music critique for The Herald) wrote: "The Choir gave their all, even though neither work is an easy option. Never short on volume, the singers were simply superb."

In the week leading up to Christmas, the Choir helped to remind us of the real meaning of Christmas with a very inspiring performance of Handel's Messiah.

The Spring concert (Mozart's Great Mass in C Minor and Haydn's Creation Mass) was given in honour of Philip Liddicoat as a celebration of his 90th birthday. Philip was the Musical Director and Conductor of the Choir for 18 years and since his retirement as Conductor in 1991 has been the Choir's very highly regarded President. Once again this was a very well received concert, prompting Philip Buttall to write: "the Choir featured two delightful concerts in their spring concert, and the gamble paid off, both in terms of the freshness with which they approached each piece, and in the obvious enjoyment and final ovation from the large audience."

The Season concluded with an excellent concert featuring Rossini's Messe Solennelle and Clive Jenkin's Gaudeamus. Clive is a Plymouth musician and composer and was specifically commissioned to write a work to celebrate the Choir's 40th Anniversary – well done Clive.

I am sure that I voice the views of all Associate Members in expressing our thanks to the Choir for all the enjoyment that they have given us during the 2010/11 Season. We are very fortunate in having, under the leadership of Christopher Fletcher, a Choir that, deservedly, has earned the reputation of being one of the best in the country.

From the details, shown below, of the Choir's forthcoming concerts, there is no doubt that the 2011/12 season has all the prospects of being another exciting and successful season.

Forthcoming Concerts:

- Sunday 27th November 2011, 7.15 pm at Plymouth Guildhall
Bach – Christmas Oratorio
(Tickets: £15.00 in advance, £17.00 on the door, under 16's £5)

- Sunday 25th March 2012, 7.30 pm at Plymouth Guildhall
Karl Jenkins - Requiem
Andrew Carter - Benedicite
(Tickets: £15.00 in advance, £17.00 on the door, under 16's £5)

- Sunday 1st July 2012, 7.30 pm at Plymouth Guildhall
Karl Jenkins – Armed Man: A Mass for Peace
Andrew Carter - Horizons
(Tickets: £20.00 in advance, £22.00 on the door, under 16's £5)

Karl Jenkins Armed Man: A Mass for Peace concert:

For those of you who have access to the Choir's website (www.plymouthphilchoir.org) you will have noticed that there has been a change to the Choir's summer 2012 concert.

As next year's Armed Forces Week (25th – 30th June) is to be centred in Plymouth, the Choir have been asked if they would be prepared to have their summer concert used as a conclusion to the Armed Forces Week. With this in mind it was felt that Karl Jenkins "Armed Man: A Mass for Peace" would be more suitable for the occasion.

As it was a sell-out concert when the Choir last performed "The Armed Man", we are expecting that once again there will be a very heavy demand for tickets for the summer concert. With this in mind, we would like to ensure that priority is given to associate members who wish to purchase additional tickets for friends or relations. Details of how additional tickets can be obtained will be sent out to associate members with their tickets for the spring concert.

Renewal subscription for the 2011/12 Season:

Having experienced the benefits of being an Associate Member, it is hoped that you will want to renew your membership for the 2011/12 season.

The subscription for the 2011/12 Season will be £45.00, which is excellent value when you consider you receive complimentary tickets and programmes for three concerts. Furthermore, you know that you will be guaranteed a ticket for concerts that are likely to be in high demand.

Sending out tickets:

Tickets are usually sent out three weeks prior to a concert. Wherever possible, and in order to save postage costs, tickets will be passed to a choir member to deliver by hand. When tickets are sent by post they will be sent by 2nd class post. If you haven't received your ticket within 10 days of the concert then please do not hesitate to contact the Associate Members Secretary.

Time to say goodbye:

After having undertaken the role of Associate Members Secretary since 2004, I have decided that now is the time to hand over the baton to someone else. I am delighted to inform you that Alan Hart, the husband of one of the Choir's Altos, has volunteered to take over this role. It is very reassuring to know that the Associate Members Scheme will continue in the very capable hands of Alan.

I would like to thank all of you for the loyal support that you have given to the Choir and I wish you, the Choir and Alan my best wishes for the future.

Annual General Meeting (AGM):

As an associate member, you are entitled to attend, in a non-voting capacity, the choir's AGM. This year's AGM is to be held in the Meade King Hall, Plymouth College, Mutley at 7.00 pm on Thursday 6th October 2011.

So that we can ensure that seating is made available to any associate members who wish to attend, we would be grateful if you could let Alan Hart know in advance if you would like to attend.

David Vasey

Associate Members Secretary