



# In Harmony

The Marchington Singers' Newsletter

Website [www.marchingtonsingers.org](http://www.marchingtonsingers.org)

Number 23

January 2009

## What a Term!

Is it really only a few months since I sat penning a contribution to our last newsletter? So much has happened since then that I now realise why my predecessor, David, aged ten years in his three years of office! So much has been achieved. Above all we have been delighted with the consistently high level of attendance at weekly practice sessions, which has been translated into such a high level of performance, both on Wednesday evenings (sometimes!) and, invariably, in public.

A wedding in the beautiful Hoar Cross Church on a height of summer Saturday saw over two thirds of the choir on parade. A ten p.m. appearance on stage at the Staffordshire & Birmingham Agricultural Society's Christmas Dinner, at The County Showground, a couple of weeks before Christmas saw three quarters of our members flying the Singers' flag before four hundred diners! Levels of performance at both of these events was high, as indeed it had been in a packed Village Hall in Draycott earlier, in October. We believe that we reached a new level at the so well supported Christmas Candlelight Concert – but I'm sure that Wendy will want to write about that – and I dare not affront her!

## And still we grow!

It was marvellous, at the beginning of the session, to recruit so many new members. The arrival of three tenors and two altos – all experienced and of high calibre – was quite a coup, even if it did seem to result in our assembly of newcomers' information packs with indecent haste. I am grateful to those members who took on the role of mentor to help translate these documents relating to our operations! Certainly, our newcomers have already made a huge impact on our performance and we now have a waiting list for soprano places!

Sadly, we also lost two long established and well-liked members. It was with a deep sense of loss that a large choir contingent played a part in the funeral of Bryan Bibb, one of our tenors, at St Peter's Church in Yoxall. A character, Bryan was never at a loss for a comment, regularly produced a laugh with his asides and was so loyal in his commitment to the Singers. It was similarly a blow to lose Joyce Wainwright, a founder member, who has had to admit defeat in the face of problems to her health. We shall miss them both and are so grateful for all their past endeavours on our corporate behalf.

## Back to the drawing board

Our 'boss' gives so generously of her time as well as her musicality that it must be the result of the guilt complex resulting from driving us so hard! (The picture of Wendy hoovering the altar steps after The Candlelight Concert – in her stockinged feet! – still raises a smile!). Nevertheless, she has found time to re-launch an eight session Music Reading course - with homework! – for those who wish to take advantage of it, and this facility has been much appreciated by those involved.

## And so to 2009

Last term saw the Committee having to refuse offers of bookings! There is only so much that an amateur operation of our size can take on without crucifying its members. Nevertheless, prior to beginning our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations later

## Diary 2009

**Wed. 14<sup>th</sup> January**  
**7.30 p.m.**  
New term starts

**Weds. 21<sup>st</sup> Jan to 11<sup>th</sup> Feb**  
Music Reading Group  
4-week course  
(Continuing from  
November's sessions)

**Wed. 25<sup>th</sup> February**  
Ash Wednesday Service  
St. Mary's Church  
Uttoxeter, 7.00 p.m.  
(Time to be confirmed)

**Sat. 7<sup>th</sup> March**  
Concert at Barlaston  
Village Hall 7.30 p.m.

**Sat. 28<sup>th</sup> March**  
Concert at Doveridge  
Village Hall, 7.30 p.m.

**Sat. 25<sup>th</sup> April**  
Joint Concert with Moira MVC  
Burton Town Hall, 7.30 p.m.

**Sat. 4<sup>th</sup> July**  
25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert  
in Uttoxeter. Venue TBC

**Sat. 5<sup>th</sup> September**  
Members' Celebration  
Dinner

**Sat. 12<sup>th</sup> December**  
Annual Christmas by  
Candlelight Concert  
St. Mary's Church  
Uttoxeter, 7.30 p.m.

in the year, we are already committed to concerts to support Barlaston Village Hall and Doveridge Bowls Club and, in conjunction with Moira Male Voice Choir, the Mayor of East Staffordshire District Council's charities in an event at Burton Town Hall.

## Then we begin the Celebrations

The Committee has drafted a possible framework for celebratory events in 2009 and a tour to Bruges, in 2010, but it will go back to the Singers in our first January practice to seek their reactions and suggestions. Whatever, the programme will already be under way by the time that the next issue of In Harmony hits the streets!! But we shall keep FOMs informed as events occur.

In the meantime, may I take the opportunity to wish all the Singers and all our 'Friends' a very happy, prosperous and healthy New Year.

*Peter*

## Message from 'er with the stick!

Yes, that was a new experience, conducting with a baton! You all watched brilliantly through the gloom, and pulled off a cracking concert, giving just the perfect atmosphere in St Mary's. It was a great thrill for me to be standing there with you, and it was great to have new members taking part. I don't like the 'you' and 'me' bit very much (after all, we are all in it together!) but thank you all so much.

So, hey - big parties next year! As you will have heard, we're hoping to really make a splash with a Gala Concert in the summer, possibly with a black-tie Reception. I'll leave the hard work to the Concert Production Team - they always do a splendid job - and will concentrate on working with you to present some really special music.

I'm going to try and borrow copies of Gounod's St Cecilia Mass from Stafford Library, but there will be an opportunity to buy your own copy if you want to. This work is very melodious and singable, not your usual 'churchy' music at all, and I think you will enjoy it. Hopefully these copies will be with us for the start of rehearsals on the 14th January, but I will let everyone know via email what else to bring on that day.

For the concert bookings in the Spring we will no doubt be 'reprise'-ing pieces from past successes: 'The Way You Look Tonight' could make a come-back, and you never know, we might see that 'handsome John Brown' turning up again. And Abram Brown as well? Hmm. Perhaps.

Have a good break and look forward to seeing you in January.

*Wendy*

## STOP PRESS: Carols Round the Village

We were singing for over two hours on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December - a rather windy and sometimes damp evening! But we managed to raise over £300 for Marie Curie Cancer Care and the Children's Society - Bryan Bibb's chosen charities. Unfortunately we cannot sing on every corner and outside every house, but thanks go to those Marchingtonians who were around to listen out for us and who gave so generously. Also many thanks to those choirs members (and their families) who made it such an excellent evening. We finished back at the Village Hall for mulled wine and mince pies, which were very welcome!

## Your Committee

The following officers and committee members were elected, at the AGM on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2008, to serve for the year to the end of the 2009 A.G.M.

### Chairman

Peter Davies (01283 712582)  
peter@petmar7.co.uk

### Secretary

Gill Williamson (01283 820407)  
williamson@marchington92.freeserve.co.uk

### Treasurer

Tim Scott (01889 563570)  
tim@raggedrobin.co.uk

### Music Librarian

Ian Jones (01283 820581)  
ian.jones32@virgin.net

### Committee Members

Simon Barber (01889 594291)  
sibarber\_2005@yahoo.co.uk

Maggie Hatchard (01283 820207)  
maggiehatchard@aol.com

Sheila Templier (01283 840688)  
stemplier@ukonline.co.uk

The Conductor and Accompanist are automatically members of the committee.

### Conductor

Wendy Scott (01889 563570)  
wendy@raggedrobin.co.uk

### Accompanist

Rhoda Castle (01283 820486)  
castletom@btinternet.com

## Notes

### ***Put concert dates in your diary!!***

\* Rehearsals for the new term start on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January, 7.30 p.m. Prompt, at the Village Hall.

\* Reminder for those members paying their subscriptions by terms - £8.50 due at the start of rehearsals.