

Strathaven Choral Society 2014/15 Season Newsletter No 4

Committee Meeting, Strathaven Hotel, Strathaven on Jan 11th 2015.

Concerts 2015/16.....

Please note the following:-

- **June 13th West End Festival** – Andy McTaggart and Marie Claire Breen are already booked as 2 of our 4 soloists.
- **December 13th Autumn/winter Concert** - After discussion it is proposed that instead of an autumn **and** winter carol concert, we try a different format. The date should be now be in all our diaries. It is proposed that we join with Cockburn Silver band or similar, to complete some new Christmas Music replacing the traditional Carol concert which was very poorly attended in 2014.
- **Dec 17th New Lanark Carols** - booked
- **2016** – A proposal for a jazzier programme with the Ewan Stevenson Trio was mooted, comprising George Shearing's Songs and Sonnets, Bob Chillcott's Little Jazz Mass. This concert could be combined with a café style concert with a small bar provided by Strathaven Ales for example.

Adopt a Composer -

<p>Mark (our composer) and David (his mentor) will come to rehearse his draft music with us on Feb 2nd 2015.</p>
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- It is intended that the piece will open and close the June concert. Chris is working on the idea of having a preconcert chat session for the audience to hear from Mark and himself about the music.

Web Management – Liz (our webwife as she terms herself) is working hard on the web site and we would welcome any input from choir members about what they would like from the web site. The site is tested and even has music to hear. It is well up and running and she is working on a Member's Area which is now accessible to choir members only, using a password security system. It will be the place to see, for example, minutes, newsletters, tea rota and probably proforma documents eventually to help on the admin side. Guidance information will be circulated.

You can add your comments to the blog page

Chris continues to manage the Twitter and Facebook bits which feed into the website. There are now many followers or tweeters or whatever you call them!

Fund raising/ Social

- **Save the date!** The coffee morning will be on April 10/11th 2015. We will be looking for helpers soon. Christine Leitch, Janis Lauchlan and Zorrha are leading on this.
- **We hope to hold an annual dinner again this year on March 13th or 20th.**
- After reviewing your suggestions, £50.00 has been sent to Lanarkshire Cancer Care Trust as our Christmas programme charity.

General Information

- **Money Matters** - There is a balance of £ 12860.90 in the account, excluding £1800.00 committed for payments due. If anyone has outstanding expenses or session fees still to pay please see Sally. Ticket prices in future should better reflect the length and content of a concert and will be agreed on a concert by concert basis.
- **Membership** – We have a new alto Larimer Park and a new bass Bill Menzies who have joined us. Sadly we have lost both Iain Sinclair and of course Alison Muntz, this season.
- **Rehearsal practice recordings** – These continue to be available through Maria.
- **Our Honorary President** - has been unable to attend concerts in 2014 but she has 2015 in her diary now. !
- **Singing Events** -
Come sings – Verdi Requiem (Edinburgh, February 2015) and Faure Requiem (www.lanarkshireorganists.org Bothwell Parish Ch, March 21st 2015 and a *Singing Course* with Wilma McDougall and Paul Keohone on 11/12th April. *Paul and Wilma* are agreeable to holding another event with us this year but to open out to others like a come sing.

Making Music (MM)

No funding is now available to MM from Arts Council England or Creative Scotland, but SCS will receive the same service as before however including Insurance, Fund arising advice, Training, Performing Rights cover.

Concerts/Dates/holidays

With 2014 concerts behind us, some suggestions and issues were forthcoming relating to publicity (not enough), winter evening concerts (poor attendance) and some rehearsal issues(noise & late arrivals). Perhaps next winter we could serve hot drinks which could be organised by a local charity or scouts.

As ever, any feedback is always welcomed.

ARH – 27th January 2015