

# The Bradford Chorale Autumn Newsletter.

## Business

- Very many thanks to members who have paid their subscription by one means or another. Just to remind you; the annual subscription is £100 and is now due. The easiest method of payment is by online banking payable to *Bradford Chorale*. Please include your name in the transfer details. Please email Olly for bank account details.
- Many thanks to Olly for the Librarianship of this term's Music. The mobile Library has delivered to our doors copies of, The Schubert Mass in G, European Sacred Music and 100 Carols for Choirs.
- A lengthy letter has been received from AMAZON SMILE describing how members can recover 0.5% of eligible purchases to choir funds at no cost to themselves or to the choir. When we have ploughed through the letter and registered for the scheme we will email choir members with details of how they can benefit choir funds.
- If you have any issues relating to choir activities', please contact any committee member by 'phone or email who will do their best to help - or find someone who can!

## Art

**Following Advice from Olly I contacted Jenny and Tom for their reflections how Zoom rehearsals were going.**

### Tom

In terms of Zoom rehearsals, I wasn't all that keen on the idea to begin with and I thought it would be a pretty poor second best to live rehearsals. Not being able to hear how everyone was doing, technology hiccups, etc made me just wish we could do things the 'old-fashioned way' because it's what we're all familiar and comfortable with.

As a bit of a techno-phobe, I've felt a bit fed up having to do other musical things in my working life online and wondered when I can ditch the screen.

I've got to admit, I've been really pleasantly surprised by how well the first couple of sessions have gone. We've had a solid turn out from choir members and there seems to be real enthusiasm for keeping the show on the road - that, in particular, has given me great encouragement.

The committee, and Jenny especially, did a lot of prep on zoom during our break and having that 'safety net' of a few people with zoom experience has really paid off.

I think it's nice for the choir to de-stress about getting anything wrong (not that they should be stressed about mistakes normally!) and they can hopefully get a wider perspective on the piece by being able to have a go at the parts they don't usually sing.

Of course, we'd all like to be back together in person, but for our present situation I think the choir are making a very good job of things.

## Jenny

I've been really pleasantly surprised about how well the choir has adapted to Zoom rehearsals, and grateful for the positive response people have shown so far.

I feel (and hope others agree) there are plenty of silver linings about rehearsing this way, and reasons to make the most of it. Because we are muted, you can sing along with other parts while they are rehearsing, hopefully meaning there are less dull moments and perhaps improving musicianship and sight-reading skills! I also think although singing solo can be daunting, it forces you to work a bit harder and not rely on others - and we will see the benefits of that hard work when we meet again in person.

I was nervous about directing a zoom rehearsal, but think Tom and I are adapting to it, and again I'm very grateful to the choir for their encouragement and good humour.

## Steve

I can only speak for myself but the Zoom rehearsals feel a reasonable substitute; I am not at all sure I am singing well (I'm pretty sure I am not!) and I do miss Ian, Matthew and Peter keeping me in line but I very much appreciate the skill of Jenny and Tom educating us in the music and their gentle good humour and entertainment. If I wanted to be negative, I could say I miss the biscuits; I was hopeful at the AGM that the wine drinking might become a trend, something to develop later perhaps.

## Key facts about the Schubert Mass.

- Written in 1815 it is Schubert's second of setting of the Mass and he wrote it within a week.
- The six movements were originally scored for strings and organ, but there is some evidence that he later revised the work with Trumpets and Timpani. There are recordings using this scoring from 1995.
- Various reviews suggest The Vienna Boys Choir do a good job of recording the work, though this can only be easily found on You Tube.
- Bradford Chorale last sang Schubert *Mass in G* (along with Elgar *Songs from the Bavarian Highlands*) together with Glen Singers in April 2005 under the baton of Christopher Rathbone. Wendy Goodson sang the Soprano solos and the Tenor and Bass soloists were from the choir. History does not record the name of the orchestra, a prize to the person who can remember it.

## IT'S CHRITMAAAS!!!

Yes! only 12 weeks to Christmas, so we shall be singing carols from the white '100 Carols for Choirs' book before long. If you need to borrow a choir copy please email Olly.