

Lancaster & District Choral Society

Summer newsletter 2011

A debt of gratitude

As is often the case, May's AGM marked a number of great contributors to the Society completing their service. As well as thanking members of the committee, many of whom are staying on for another year, John Robinson singled out Sue Chippendale for the many years' service in various roles and to thank those who have taken over her various roles, namely: Jim Birkett, as concert stage manager, Jacky Ireland our new-ish membership secretary and, Margaret Robinson who now manages rehearsal CDs, dealing with suppliers with consummate skill.

Janet Knott also garners thanks for her timely assuming the role of the Society's social organiser.

Those elected this year include

Chairman:	John Robinson
Vice-Chairman:	Roger Heise
Chancellor:	Gordon Arkwright
Secretary:	Roger Heise
Propagandist:	Stephanie Tulej
Bibliotechnicians:	Jean Stephenson assisted by Marion Taylor and Julie Edge
Chief Steward:	Bob Bond
Minute Secretary:	Linda Cook
Committee members:	Joyce Bond Lynne Wyre
Member Secretary:	Jacky Ireland
Social Treasurer:	Julie Edge
Programme Editor:	Richard Beveridge

We have a vacancy for Equal Opportunities officer – as always volunteers would be more than welcome.

John Perrin paid tribute to the members of the Society who had worked hard to produce two fine and well reviewed performances this season, especially attendance and punctuality at rehearsals.

What goes on tour...

Once again, a hard working, dedicated band of apostles spent part of the early summer

spreading the Society's musical prowess outside the North West.

Accoutered by a series of well worked practice sessions and armed with a hatful of Choral favourites, the Lancaster and District Chorale (as the thirty five singers styled themselves) along with John Perrin and Kathleen Mills, boarded a charabanc bound for Hampshire.



The Chorale visited Winchester and gave a lunchtime concert in the Cathedral. The programme included popular choral favourites plus a performance of Widor's *Toccata* played on the organ by John Perrin.

During their stay the choir also gave a charity concert in St Mary's Church, Andover, in aid of church funds. Despite their busy schedule, they also found the time to spend a day at Beaulieu, visited Stonehenge, Salisbury and enjoyed a conducted tour of Winchester College and Chapel.

All participants were very grateful to Joyce Bond for her energy and flair in enabling the tour to take place and for her leading the fundraising efforts to happen.

Render unto Caesar...

The membership rates for the jubilee year are unchanged from last and will be as follows:

	Waged	Retired	Student/benefit
Full year:	£55	£50	£25
One term fee	£30	£25	£15

The wandering tribe #2

One could re-write the paragraph from last summer's newsletter about moving rehearsal venue with all but address for this year. The good people of the LRGS have decided not to let their assembly hall in term time and once again your hard working committee spent Mid-summer seeking a new venue for Monday evenings.

Following your committee's assessment of available options we have decided to go to The Assembly Hall of Ripley Saint Thomas CofE High School, Ashton Hall, Lancaster.

Directions are on our web site and we look forward to seeing you there on September 5th.

Dull administrative stuff

Rehearsals for *Le Grande Messe des morts* will begin on September 5th and scores will be distributed then as well as new year admin.

A selection of forms is attached to this newsletter.

Please plan to arrive at the new venue from 18.30.

175 years young

Founded in 1836, the Society's reaches its 175th year in 2011/12. To mark this milestone, our programme for 2011/2012 will be:

19th November 2011 - Great Hall LU

Berlioz Grande Messe des Morts Op 5.

10th December 2011 - Ashton Hall

Christmas Carol Concert, w/MBB and Ripley School choir.

24th December 7:00 p.m. - Lancaster House

Hotel - Carols and refreshments

21st April 2012 - Great Hall LU

"Best Of British" - Diamond Jubilee celebration and 2012 London Olympics (inc Jenkins' *Armed Man Mass Choral Suite*)

Disgruntled vagabond

The autumn concert is an ambitious piece commissioned, appropriately enough in 1837. Hector Berlioz wrote his great 'death Mass' to commemorate the death of Marshall Mortier.

Featuring an expanded (and multiplied) brass section the Mass promises to be a fitting piece to

mark the anniversary year and to set the bar even higher than recent engagements.

Vivat Regina

Inconveniently, another landmark Jubilee is being celebrated in 2012, so to honour both Her Majesty and London's becoming the first city to host the Summer Olympic Games three times, our spring concert will celebrate great British music.

The evening will feature orchestral and choral pieces. Some will be familiar, others new, all demonstrating the rich history of the country's musical heritage.

Add to this Christmas performances in the locality, a new brief history of LDCS, expanded programmes and the probability of another summer tour, a busy anniversary year is in prospect.

As always, the Society is fired by the gusto of its singers and fuelled by the energy of its volunteers. If you would like to take part in producing any of the events or support our activities away from the rehearsal room, the committee would be delighted to hear from you.

Heard in the summer...

Those of you who follow *House* or recall his marvelous Bertie Wooster will be aware that former Cambridge oarsman, distinguished actor and accomplished musician Hugh Laurie recently recorded an album of delta blues.



Featured on *Let them talk* is a splendid rendition of *the battle of Jericho*, familiar to members who performed in the 2008 autumn concert and dusted off by the Chorale on the Hampshire tour.

Laurie performed the song at London's Union Chapel in May, without, it must be said, any of the deft footwork demonstrated by our Sopranos when performing the piece as part of *Feel the Spirit*.