



CAPELETTA

No 48

May 2012

Celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee at our

Jubilee Prom

- in The Marquee, Capel Recreation Ground

Saturday August 18th 2012 at 7.30pm

Haydn

Nelson Mass

Parry

Blest Pair of Sirens

Handel

Zadok the Priest

**plus other celebratory pieces
and 'Prom' favourites**

**Orchestra, soloists and chorus,
conducted by**

Peter Ford

Tickets £15

Special Jubilee Champagne also available

boxoffice@capelchoralsociety.com

or 01403 269884

Capel Choral Society

Conductor: Peter Ford **Accompanist:** Anthea Smallwood

Your Committee

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It is the function of Voice Representatives to help the singers in their voice section, and to communicate to them any Committee matters or decisions which may affect them, and also to answer any queries or concerns which individual singers may have, or to take such matters to the Committee. Therefore, if you have any questions or concerns, please speak to your Voice Rep; if you don't know him or her by sight, ask someone to introduce you.

The principal Committee members may also be contacted by email via the Choir's website (see note on the Calendar insert). The addresses are member@capelchoralsociety.com – for 'member' substitute 'chairman', 'secretary', 'treasurer', 'librarian' or 'publicity' as appropriate.

From the Editor

Another Festival over already! It doesn't seem yesterday that we started rehearsing the Brahms and small pieces. All in all, a successful Competitions for Capel Choral - although we again came bottom we were much closer to Bookham than last year, and they are a much larger choir. Our three second places were only one mark behind dominant overall winners Holmbury and we had some excellent adjudications – see the transcripts in this *Capelletta*. But for nervousness at being the first choir to sing in the morning, and a passage from the Brahms which we have been finding very demanding in rehearsal, we would have been higher in the Aggregate standings.

Our aggregate mark was the same as Beare Green & Newdigate received on the Division 2 day, but in the case of our 'other' choir there wasn't much rejoicing – after coming second in 2011, we were hoping for great things, but after some rather strange marking by a new adjudicator we came last, with only one second place.

Marks were a source of contention in Div 3 as well – the Full Chorus is supposed to be marked out of 200 now, but the adjudicator marked out of 100, which initially gave Dorking the Aggregate. However, it was then decided that

the marks for that Class should be doubled, which tied Dorking with Leatherhead! Both choirs appeared to be a bit aggrieved about the mix-up.

It was great to receive articles from two new singers about their experiences at their first Festival – I was very pleased to read that they both enjoyed the day. My thanks to both of them!

Thanks also for the article from Marilyn Freed, recollecting her time at Dorking Grammar learning music under the tutelage of Dr Morgan.

My impassioned plea in the last *Capeletta* obviously had some effect - if more singers wrote me articles like these, producing the newsletter would be so much easier! I think that sharing your thoughts about the Festival and music in general in this way also brings us together as a choir, may help Peter in how he conducts rehearsals, and also give the committee some idea of singers' likes and dislikes which could help with choosing music for our own concerts.

As I have already advised singers with email, the planned Coffee Morning on 19 May has been postponed. The Committee felt the timing was not right for saleable items to be collected, and the organisation of the Jubilee Prom is absorbing more time than usual for a summer concert. The event will probably now be held in October; however, please do continue collecting items for sale and raffle.

I look forward to seeing many of you on 14th May.

Ian Moir

Memories of Dorking Grammar



It was a big surprise to me at our Christmas concert when Capel Choral Society was presented with a piano stool and conductor's podium by Michael Jarvis on behalf of the Ashcombe Dorkinian Association. These items were originally presented to Ashcombe School in memory of Doctor Moore Morgan, music teacher at Dorking Grammar School (the predecessor to Ashcombe School).

The presentation brought back many memories to me. In the 1960's I was a pupil at Dorking Grammar School and it was through Doctor Moore Morgan ("Doc" as he was known) that I developed my love of classical music and choral singing in particular. 'Doc' was an inspiring and charismatic teacher and also conducted the school choir, which I joined. Each year we put on

"Messiah" and, yes, Brahms' Requiem which we sang in the English translation used for this year's Festival.

In the sixties recordings were made of some of the school concerts by the sixth form boys and these have recently been remastered onto CDs. I own the full set, purchased through my membership of the Ashcombe Dorkinian Association. One of the CDs is of the Brahms' Requiem and, even given the primitive recording facilities available fifty years ago, one can hear that the choir gave a fresh, vibrant and accurate performance. This was down to the brilliant choir mastership of Doc and I am pleased that Capel Choral Society now own the piano stool and conductor's podium produced in his memory.

Marilyn Freed

LHMF 2012, a New Experience....

When Rachel Forsyth and I were asked to write about our experiences of joining the choir and the Festival day it was hard to know where to begin - we are both at different ages and stages in our lives.

I suppose you could say that I joined the choir at a point where my life had suddenly changed and my confidence had taken a nose dive ; my teenage sons were fast becoming men and all of a sudden I wasn't 'needed' to the same extent (even our poor dog was getting fed up with all the attention I lavished on her!)

During the first few weeks I wasn't too sure if I was going to be up to it - the fast pace of the sight reading and the 'surprise' notes that would escape my lips when tackling such unfamiliar music. However, it was under the nurturing wing of Yvonne, Hilary and Liz, coupled with Peter's humorous anecdotes of encouragement that I found I had caught the choral bug!

I thoroughly enjoyed the bracing and cheery Christmas concerts (in particular the one at Polesden) where we all felt immensely proud to have finally mastered 'In Dulci Jubilo'. And a huge 'thank you' to Christine (and merry helpers) for fulfilling a long held fantasy of the most atmospheric and musical Christmas meal- I bored fellow dog walkers with that one for weeks!

Then it was on to the marathon training for the festival. Would we ever be able to sustain enough breath for the Brahms, let alone sing the Londonderry Air anything but flat? I wasn't sure what to expect of the festival day except that it couldn't be all that bad seeing as you all continued to return to it year after year! Now I know why!

The whole day was so exciting and rewarding. Despite the nervous tension, the atmosphere was uplifting and friendly, with kind words of encouragement from both other choirs and the adjudicators.

The highlight for me has to be our truly wonderful performance of the Londonderry Air in the competition, and the Brahms - which reclaimed my love in the evening performance. I'll never forget the sight of Brian's manic expression and the thrill of being in the middle of such a dark and powerful performance 'For Behold' in movement 6 - like a human version of a hornet's nest!

The evening concert has been my most moving musical experience thus far and, (at the risk of sounding emotionally unhinged), I found myself on Saturday mourning (pronounced mourning not morning - we do listen Peter) its loss.

At least I have next year's Festival to look forward to.

So thank you for your patience, support, humour and friendship. The choir has had a big impact on my life.

Ali Weedon

.....And Another

Having sung in choirs from a very young age, I then went through a singing lull after Senior School until this January. Dad, has sung for Capel Choral Society for a few years and I thought it was time to test my lungs out again! And test them I did! Singing a major choral work is completely different from the short gospel pieces we did at school, and there were times when I honestly did not think I would be able to learn the Brahms. However, slowly and surely we worked through all the movements with Peter's occasional looks of despair fading as the festival day got rapidly closer.

The Leith Hill Festival is a fantastic experience! I was extremely pleased that our ensemble received 2nd place, with two further 2nd places including the Londonderry Air, which was my favourite piece of the competition. There is nothing more beautiful than a choir getting the harmonies spot on.

Despite being a very long day leaving home at 8am and getting home at 10.30pm, the day flies by. It feels as though you move from one piece, through the competition, then to the afternoon rehearsal and finally the evening concert. I was very lucky to have the support of my Mum and partner in the audience, who really enjoyed the evening.

All in all a great experience that I would recommend to anyone. And a big thank you to all the Sopranos (the singers, not the American Mafia family) for their support and encouragement.

Rachel Forsyth

Diary Dates for 2012

Monday 14 th May	Start of Jubilee Concert rehearsals
Saturday 18th August	Capel Jubilee Concert
Monday 10 th September	Start of Autumn Term
Monday 10 th December	Christmas Concert
Monday 17 th December	Christmas Meal
Monday 12 th January	Start of Spring term

Jubilee Concert rehearsals will be held every Monday,

except for 4th June. One or two Saturday 'workshops' are planned.

LHMF 2012 Adjudications

Here are transcripts of the adjudications on our efforts at the Festival. As always, I hope I have deciphered the Adjudicator's handwriting correctly!

Class	Piece	Mark	Place
Full Chorus	<i>"Requiem"</i>	164	4
Adjudication			
<p>1. A little flat at first. Try to blend the ensemble a little more and shape the phrases, especially when singing quietly. A little more support needed by sopranos especially on crescendos.</p> <p>2. The opening needed a little more declamation. Basses & sops: really power your way through at 'F'. p40 a little underpowered – work for a bigger crescendo. The fughetta got off to quite a good start but got a little unstuck as it progressed. However, you managed to power through to a successful conclusion.</p>			
Ensemble 1	<i>"Younger generation"</i>	83	=5
Adjudication			
Well paced from the out-set – good, clear, precise singing. The style and impetus were captured with good balance and measured pace. Well held pauses and some detail. (Don't be afraid to create some dynamics at times). Good entries(?) with much style. Well done! (Gents, don't be shy!)			
Ensemble 2	<i>"Younger generation"</i>	85	2
Adjudication			
Brisk, bright, crisp and clean with much style and impetus. Well done gents – spot-on with the ladies' quavers, clear and precise. The essence of the setting was captured with pace and good style. Exciting and effervescent! Most enjoyable, well done!			
Women's song	<i>"To the ploughboy"</i>	85	2
Adjudication			
Good, articulate beginning with clarity and projection. Detailed singing with clear lines and mainly supported upper part. The overall sound was clean and warm with much projection and style. The essence of the setting was captured with some aplomb. Well done!			
Men's song	<i>"Peter Piper"</i>	82	4
Adjudication			
A slightly mixed performance. There were some good moments in the full ensemble, but a few of the contrapuntal moments were a little ragged and occasionally approximate! Nevertheless you ploughed on valiantly and kept the momentum going well. Not an easy piece with a small group.			

Class	Piece	Mark	Place
Part song	<i>"Londonderry air"</i>	86	2
Adjudication			
A lovely, lyrical beginning with good chording and shape to the phrasing. You took full advantage of the climaxes in the phrasing to produce expressive poignant singing with much to commend throughout. (Breathe deeply to sustain the phrasing). Beautifully controlled singing. Well done!			
Madrigal	<i>"Mother, I will have a husband"</i>	83	4
Adjudication			
A bright opening and a nice sense of ensemble. Balance was not always true between parts and there were one or two ragged moments. Really work hard at the tongue-twisting rhythms of the words. Nevertheless, good feel for dynamics. The 2/4 was a little unsure but the ending was good.			
Own Choice	<i>"Sure on this shining night"</i>	84	=3
Adjudication			
Good start – spot-on! –well done! Good balance in the parts – just ensure that you sing ‘through’ the phrasing – breathe deeply to sustain the phrasing sops! Nicely contrasted, however, with shape and fluidity. Expressive with clear words and style. (Lovely final phrase, basses!) Well done!			

The Adjudicators were Eric ‘Well done!’ Tebbett, and Philip White.

The Aggregate Marks were:

Holmbury St Mary 523, Oxshott 512, Bookham 502, Capel 500.

Holmbury won every class which is probably a record.

For the benefit of those who were unable to attend the other Divisions’ competitions, the aggregate marks for the main competitions were as follows:

Division 2: Buckland & Betchworth 511, Shalford 508,
Mickleham 500, Beare Green & Newdigate 500

Division 3: Leatherhead 527, Dorking 527, Epsom 519, Horsley 510.

A lot of photos of the Div 1 rehearsal are on the Festival website at:

<http://www.lhmf.co.uk/Festival.aspx>

Division 1 music for the 2013 Festival

Main works	<i>Coronation Mass</i>	Mozart
	<i>Lux aeterna</i>	Lauridsen
Madrigal	<i>To shorten winter's sadness</i>	Weelkes
Part Song	<i>To sing as one</i>	Ian Assersohn
Men's Song	<i>The farmer's boy</i>	RVW
Women's Song	<i>It was a lover and his lass</i>	Jonathan Willcocks
Ensemble	<i>Linden lea</i>	RVW

The next edition of *Capectta* will be issued just before the start of the Autumn Term.

Please submit copy by 27th August.

Copy may be in paper form, delivered by hand, or posted to:

26 Parkway, Dorking RH4 1EU

- or sent electronically to:

secretary@capelchoralsociety.com

The opinions expressed in *Capectta* are those of the writer, and do not necessarily represent the views of the Committee.

Choir Members' Details

For the purposes of the circulation of *Capectta* and for other communication needs, Choir members' details are stored electronically. These consist of name, address and phone number only. If any member has any objection to their details being so held, please contact the Secretary.



Founded 1904