



CAPELETTA

No 42

December 2009

Very best wishes

to all readers

for a

Happy and Prosperous 2010

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The first Rehearsal of 2010 is on

Monday 4th January at 7.45pm

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The first LHMF Combined Rehearsal is on

Saturday 9th January at 10am

- at the Priory School, Dorking

(see directions inside)

Capel Choral Society

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

Your Committee

Chairman:	Barbara Laird	01306 628240
Secretary:	Ian Moir	01306 889817
Treasurer:	Shirley Carpenter	01403 269741
Soprano Representative:	Yvonne Allmond	01403 269884
Alto Representative:	Sara Tremlett	01403 790454
Men's Representative:	Andrew Forsyth	01306 712422
Capeletta Editor:	Ian Moir	01306 889817
Music Librarian:	Gill Moir	01306 889817
Press & Publicity:	Andrew Forsyth	01306 712422

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.

From the Editor

I think you would all agree that the Christmas Concert was a resounding success. We had a packed church and from various comments I heard the audience enjoyed the music and many were impressed with the improvement in the choir's singing – one former CCS member told me it sounded like a different choir. Thanks are due to all those who contributed to the Concert's success, including Peter and Anthea of course, the soloists and instrumentalists, and all of you who sold tickets to fill the church. The collection we had for Children in Need as part of the BBC 'Sing Hallelujah' project made nearly £200.

If we can build on the success of the concert, I think we can look forward with optimism to the Festival in April. Peter is obviously pleased with the sound we are making and if we can maintain this we should be able to impress the judges at the LHMF competitions. The Choir has grown in size since Peter Ford joined us, with some new singers and some returning after some years away. Hopefully this increase will continue so that we can better match the other Division 1 choirs in numbers and in the confidence that this brings; I don't mean being able to 'hide' behind other singers, but not feeling exposed so that nervousness is almost inevitable. After 38 Festivals, I still get fits of nerves when we're standing in front of the adjudicator!

What I'm trying to say is, we need to at least maintain our numbers through to the Festival, so please try and make sure your diary is clear of all other engagements on Saturday 17 April 2010 so you can give your full commitment to helping Capel Choral Society give of its very best in the Competitions.

We also need to give our full commitment to the evening concert on Festival day, by attending all three of the Combined Rehearsals, to help Brian Kay produce the performance he really wants from us; it's not just a case of knowing the notes from our own rehearsals – Brian always wants additional or different subtleties in the concert performances, and he can only realise this if we all attend the Combineds and add his instructions to our music.

The dates of all the Combined Rehearsals are in the calendar in this *Capelletta*, and also in the Festival Schedule which I hope you keep with you for reference. Here's hoping for a better 2010 as the UK comes out of the recession, but whatever, we have music to keep our spirits up.

A happy New Year to you all.

Ian Moir

Division 1 music for the 2010 Festival – a reminder

Full Chorus	<i>The Music Makers</i>	Elgar
	<i>Three songs of praise</i>	Dyson
Madrigal	<i>See, see the shepherds' queen</i>	Tomkins
Part Song	<i>A poet's hymn</i>	Dyson
Men's Song	<i>Come, let's be merry</i>	Stone
Women's Song	<i>An Eriskay love lilt</i>	arr. Gwyn Arch
Ensemble	<i>Sweet day</i>	Vaughan Williams

The Capel Choral Christmas Tree

Thank you to all those who gave decorations, some artfully handcrafted, for the Capel Choral Christmas Tree which was duly erected in the churchyard. Particular thanks are due to Maria Eppel who donated the tree itself.

Putting up the tree and dressing it took place on a thankfully sunny Saturday, together with over 20 other societies and groups, while a saxophonist played, mulled wine and mince pies were handed out and children gambolled – a real community event. Thanks to those that came to help with our tree.



When the tree lights were illuminated after dark they gave a really impressive display which I've heard has attracted many compliments. I hope we can do this again in 2010.

Dates for 2010

Monday 4 th January	Start of Spring term
Friday 8 th January	First <i>St John Passion</i> Rehearsal, 7.45pm
Saturday 9 th January	Division 1 Combined Rehearsal 10am
Monday 11 th January	Capel Committee meeting
Saturday 27 th February	Division 1 Combined Rehearsal 4pm
Sunday 14 th March	<i>St John Passion</i> , Dorking Halls, 7pm
Saturday 20 th March	Division 1 Combined Rehearsal 1pm
Saturday 27 th March	Youth Competitions, Dorking Halls
Saturday April 17 th	Division 1 Festival Day, Dorking Halls

A date for our Summer Concert will be fixed at the next Committee meeting and announced at the following rehearsal.

**All Combined Rehearsals are at the Priory School, Dorking
(See directions on this page)**

***St John Passion* rehearsals are at the United Reformed Church in
West Street, Dorking on the dates detailed in your Festival Diary**

As usual there will be a cake stall at the **Combined Rehearsals** – please support it by bringing cakes to sell and/or buying the wares on offer.

Please note that Festival Conductor Brian Kay likes to have as near maximum attendance at the Combined Rehearsals as possible. The LHMF Rules (see your Festival schedule) state that attendance at **all** Combined's is a prerequisite to singing in the Festival concert. If you unavoidably cannot attend a rehearsal please write to Brian, c/o the LHMF Secretary, Liz May, 59 Eastwick Park, Great Bookham KT23 3LZ, or ask someone to give it to Liz at the rehearsal. (Or it is probably acceptable to email Liz at secretary@lhmf.co.uk)

Directions to the Priory School

Travelling North up the A24 turn left into Dorking (A2003) at the roundabout at the end of the dual carriageway. Continue until you meet the one-way system with the former May's motor showroom on your right. Turn left and take the next left turn, signposted Coldharbour, then turn right into Coldharbour Lane, and take the next right into Hampstead Lane. Follow round the sharp right bend at the end, and ignore Longfield Road on the left. The Priory School is at the far end of West Bank on the left hand side. Inside the gates turn left across the front of the school and follow round to the playground where there is parking.

First rehearsal 4 January www.capelchoralsociety.com Combined Rehearsal 9 January

LHMF Division I – As We Were.....

30 years ago (1979) In the previous *Capectta* I said that I didn't know what music the Festival music was in 1979 or how Capel fared in the Competitions. Well, thanks to Lorna Carlton who presented me with a Festival programme for that year, all can now be revealed! The main work was Rossini's *Petite Messe Solonnelle* while the small pieces included *Wassail* by George Dyson, whose *Three Songs of Praise* we are doing this year. There was also some Elgar, his *My love dwelt in a northern land*.

In the Competitions Capel were the Highest Aggregate winners by a clear three points, ahead of a three-way tie between Blackheath, Epsom and Reigate & Redhill, despite only winning the Part Song along the way.

Ian Moir

Capel Choral Society AGM, 5 October 2009 (Edited Minutes)

In his **Conductor's Report** Peter Ford thanked the Choir for the summer concert, which was fun since everything had been set up for him beforehand.

In her **Treasurer's Report** Shirley reported that there had been a disappointing excess of expenditure over income in the 2008/9 financial year, despite all the concerts being profitable, and she had transferred £1000 from the Deposit Account to support the funds. However, a grant from the Surrey Community Foundation had partly offset this loss – a similar grant could be applied for in the future. A tax refund was also expected, so overall the Choir had started the new Season in a healthy financial position, but Shirley did emphasise the need for fund-raising which the Committee needed to discuss.

Alan Smallwood gave his **Chairman's Report** in which he reviewed 'an eventful and transitional' year, including the Festival and the Christmas and summer concerts. In the former we had the disadvantage of singing against choirs twice our size, but we did not disgrace ourselves. The Christmas concert had been graced by some marvellous soloists, the vocal soloists singing with the choir in choral passages.

He welcomed Peter Ford and praised him for tackling some unfamiliar music with enthusiasm in the summer.

Alan referred to the small size of the choir in relation to its financial health, but it was confidence rather than size which was the factor in concerts and the Festival.

He thanked the Committee for their help during the past year and hoped the choir would give their full support to his successor to the Chairman's post.

As **Secretary** Ian Moir thanked the rest of the Committee for their help and support, and particularly Gill Moir for her work as Librarian, both for the Choir and for the rest of Division 1, and this year Division 3 as well. He also thanked Peter Evans for producing the Choir's new website.

He thanked singers for their comments about *Capeletta*, but made a plea for more copy from Choir members as he felt he was beginning to repeat himself.

Ian also noted that the Choir had increased its numbers this Season and hoped that it would continue to grow. He asked the Choir to try and recruit new singers at every opportunity.

In the **Election of Officers and Committee** Alan Smallwood stood down as Chairman, after five years in the post. Barbara Laird had been proposed as his successor and her appointment was approved unanimously by the Meeting. All other Officers and Committee Members were re-elected.

In **Any Other Business** Ken Richardson proposed a vote of thanks to Alan Smallwood for his service to the Choir as Chairman for the last five years. This was supported by Barbara Laird and all present.

Liz Weavin asked that the Choir be given a calendar of dates at the beginning of each year.

Barbara Laird looked forward to singing for Peter Ford, who she said inspired confidence in the Choir.

Marilyn Freed proposed a vote of thanks to Anthea Smallwood for her hard work as Accompanist.

Alan Smallwood announced that he had offered himself for election to the LHMF General Committee. (He was subsequently elected at the LHMF AGM)

Ian Moir

Notes on LHMF AGM, 9 October 2009

In his **Conductor's Report**, Brian Kay said that the Division 1 concert would be remembered most for the performance of *A Great and Glorious Victory*, the challenge of the piece being met by singers clearly determined that the ultimate victory should be theirs!

He had also said that the performance of Handel's *Messiah* was one he'd never forget, despite 'bonds never before being so broken asunder'! (That chorus had rather fallen apart. *Ed.*)

Secretary Liz May also mentioned the Willcocks as an experience she would never forget. She also referred to the Div 1 Own Choice which had been won by Holmbury despite exceeding the four minutes allowed. The General Committee had since decided that a choir exceeding the time allowance would be disqualified. Liz also mentioned the shortage of volunteers coming forward to

serve on Festival committees, and also the need to recruit another choir to the Festival.

The number of tickets sold for the Festival was down slightly on 2008. Capel had sold the lowest number of tickets, at 45 - but compared to Epsom's 60, for a much larger choir, this wasn't bad! The Festival had made a small profit on the year.

The **Youth Competitions** go from strength to strength – 26 choirs sang on the day, after some late withdrawals, just below the practical maximum of 28 for the day.

Friends and Patrons had contributed £4,330 to the Festival's funds although number of members had fallen. The minimum donations had been increased for new members.

The **LHMF Trust** would be donating £600 to help choirs with music hire and purchase (Not all that generous at only £50 per choir!). The Trust Fund capital and investment fund stand at £34,500.

The **50:50 Club** had contributed over £1,000 to Festival funds during the year. It was now under new management after the retirement of Howard and Flicky Woods.

The **LHMF Sales Table** had made a profit of £1,740 (Capel contributed in a small way to this by selling LHMF goods at the Capel Flower Show).

The **LHMF Quiz**, run by Epsom had made a profit of some £750.

The Woods' **End to End** cycle ride had raised in excess of £5,500 for the LHMF in addition to £1,000 donated to each of three other charities.

In the **Elections**, all Officers were re-elected. Six of the eight vacancies on the General Committee were filled, one by Alan Smallwood.

Bill Llewellyn (Brian Kay's predecessor as LHMF Conductor) had stood down from the **Music Committee**, Renée Stewart (former LHMF Secretary who is due to celebrate her 90th birthday in 2010) also announced her retirement.

The music for the 2011 Festival was announced; Division 1 get Beethoven's *Mass in C*, Vaughan Williams' *In Windsor Forest* and Brahms' *Alto Rhapsody*.

A request was made for ideas for **Fundraising Events**.

Ian Moir

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

The next edition of *Capeletta* will be issued just after the Festival.

Please submit copy by 10 April.

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

26 Parkway, Dorking RH4 1EU

- or sent electronically to:

secretary@capelchoralsociety.com

Choir Members' Details

For the purposes of the circulation of *Capeletta* 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.