



Charlton Kings Choral Society

Registered Charity No291743

News: 2007/2008

Issue: No 1

A New President

Right at the end of the season we were very pleased to announce that James Gilchrist had accepted our invitation (made on our behalf by John Wright) to become our new President from September 2008. We are absolutely thrilled about this and look forward to welcoming him to many of our future events.

Due to escalating costs we are not producing the newsletter this year in the traditional form. Full reports of last year's activities will be given at the AGM but please keep this newsheet with your choral files as listed below are the dates you need to know before you plan your holidays.

I hope you had an enjoyable August and I look forward to seeing you all in September.

Margaret Walker (Chairman)

Dates for your Diaries

Sat 29 th Nov 2008	All Saints' Church	Rossini Petite Messe Solennelle
Sat 20 th Dec 2008	St Mary's Charlton Kings	Christmas Concert
Sat 23 rd May 2009	Pittville Pump Room	Haydn –The Seasons

It would really be helpful to our Concert planning if you could make a note of these dates so that most will know in advance who is and who is not available.

Margaret Walker (Chairman)

From the Conductor

I too, am thrilled that James Gilchrist will be our President; I am sure we all remember how superbly he sang with us in *The Dream of Gerontius*. He has performed locally on several occasions throughout last year and his name will be instantly recognized by our audiences, and any prospective members. I should like to say a big thank you to those who sang evensong at Bristol Cathedral on 27th July. The singing was clear and confident and I was able to make a recording that can be used successfully to promote the choir for any future cathedral visits we may wish to make. Thanks are also due to Cameron Luke, who fine organ playing added to the success of the occasion.

Many will remember the money left to the choir by the late Alan Blenkin, who was one of our basses. I hope to be able to announce soon details of how we will be able to use that money to commission a new work for the choir for November 2009. I hope that has whetted your appetites enough to come rushing to the first rehearsal on 3rd September, and I am looking forward very much to seeing you all again and to working together on our music for the year.

Mr John Wright (Conductor)

2007/2008 Summary of Concerts

We started off the year in the beautiful arena of the Pittville Pump Room with *The Armed Man* by *Karl Jenkins*; which was peacefully performed to a sell out audience. Our traditional Christmas Concert followed its established programme with readings and carols in St Mary's Church, followed by mulled wine and mince pies to add to the Christmas spirit. The May concert was in All Saints and well attended and enjoyed by all. The year ended with a successful singing of *Evensong* in Bristol Cathedral.

There were two very exciting extra performances by the choir during the last year: the first was in Gloucester Cathedral when we were invited to be the guest choir at the St George's Day Service. An exquisite venue and a most patriotic occasion, the general response among the choir was that we would like to do it again; the second was when fifty to sixty of us travelled to London to do an *Armed Man* from Scratch. This was especially thrilling for those who had not done anything like this before (like me); Brian Kay's direction was an inspiration and the thought of being one of 3000 voices performing in the Royal Albert Hall quite overwhelming.

Pat Hemming (Secretary)

Social Events and Fund-Raising

The fund-raising took its normal form with a Autumn Coffee Morning, Spring Jumble Sale and the book sales. Many thanks as always to the team who work so hard on these occasions. Thanks also to Dom Leonard for trying to improve the social events of the Choir. Many of us enjoyed the Skittles evening at the Charlton Kings Club in March and the Tea party at Margaret's house in July. We should like to continue these events next season and hope to increase the numbers attending.

Pat Hemming (Secretary)