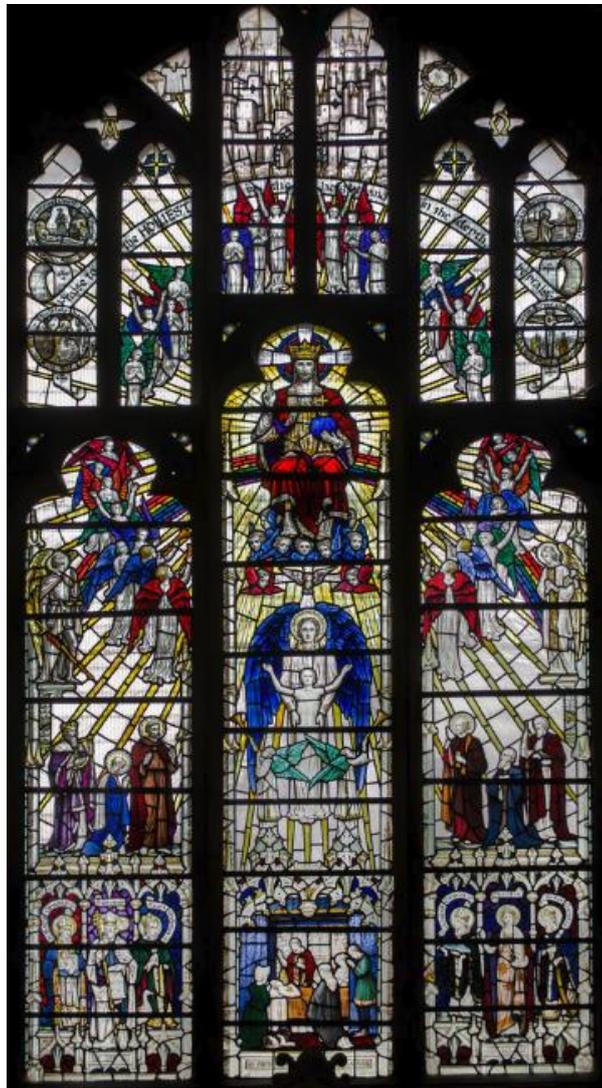


Choir News

Issue 187 31st August 2018



*Stained glass window, Worcester Cathedral
The Elgar Window by A. K. Nicholson, 1935, based on the Dream of Gerontius.
The window shows Gerontius ascending to the Heavenly City, surrounded by figures from the Bible.*

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NEW SEASON STARTS ON MONDAY !

How exciting that we are about to embark on another fantastic musical journey with Adrian at the helm! We have some fantastic concerts and events lined up to challenge and delight you as singers and provide musical entertainment and fulfilment to our audience.

I look forward to seeing you all on Monday when we begin rehearsing Elgar's masterpiece "The Dream of Gerontius" for our early concert on 13th October to celebrate Adrian's 60th birthday earlier that month.

Please arrive as soon after 7pm on Monday as we are:

- Handing out the scores
- Welcoming some new singers

Don't forget there is a Sing Saturday workshop on "The Dream" on Saturday 8th September at 10am in the Chapter House which will help you get as well prepared for the concert as possible so please see if you can come along for this too.

Guest Singers for Gerontius:

With approval from Adrian and the GCS board, I have invited some guests to join us in celebrating Adrian's birthday. There will be fewer than 20, who know Adrian well through his work at one or more of:

- Bristol Choral Society
- Oxford Bach Choir
- BBC Chorus of Wales
- Three Choirs Festival Chorus

Some of these singers are unable to attend all the rehearsals on Monday but have sung the work many times before and will enhance our chorus so please make them feel welcome and enjoy making great music with them.

Over the next few weeks, I will produce some more detailed notes about this season and the changes to our board so please ensure you are fully informed on the things to come.

Allen
allen@prior-chelt.co.uk



SUBSCRIPTIONS

The subscription for the 2018 19 season (September to June) is £175. Membership for those under 25 is free, and concessions are available for cases of difficulty (please talk to me about this if you want to know more).

All the information about paying subscriptions is on the website. However I thought it might be helpful to repeat it here:

- Payment can be made in full or in up to eight instalments. If you are paying in full, you can use cash, cheque, BACS transfer or standing order.
- **If you have an existing annual standing order in place, please remember to update it before it gets paid at last year's rate (NB if your subscription is paid on 1 September by standing order, then this Friday is the last day to update it!).**
- To pay in instalments, these can be set up online or you can make use of the accompanying standing order form. The subscription must be paid in full by April 2019 and suggested instalments this year are 2 at £87.50, 4 at £43.75, 7 at £25, or 8 at £21.88. If paying by instalments, please remember to put an end date in your instruction!
- If setting up online to pay in full or by instalments, please make sure your payment is referenced 'GCS subscription' so it can be easily identified. Whichever method is used, it really helps if either the full payment or the first instalment is made during September.
- The bank details are as usual ie Gloucester Choral Society, sort code 40 52 40, account number 00007718

Thank you to all those who are able to gift aid your subscriptions – the resulting tax receipt boosted GCS funds by an amazing £5,000 this last year (equivalent to adding an extra £35 to the annual subscription).

If you have any queries about subscriptions or gift aid, please do contact me on subscriptions@gloucesterchoral.com

Sarah Goodwin (Alto)



REHEARSALS – A MESSAGE FROM THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Now that we're about to start a new GCS Season, it's time for a reminder about our behaviour in rehearsals.

GCS is more fortunate than many other choral societies in having in Adrian a conductor of international reputation and superb musicianship, supported in Jonathan by one of Britain's finest organists. Because of this we, the members, are in a fantastic position to learn an enormous amount about the music we perform, how it should be performed, and about the vocal technique we need to be able to perform it to the highest possible standard. (We would not, for instance, have been invited to sing with the Philharmonia in the Royal Festival Hall if

we had not received training to the highest standards with which such an orchestra expects to associate itself.)

It should, therefore, go without saying that we must respect Adrian and Jonathan, and what they're trying to do for us, by:

- **NOT TALKING during rehearsals**
- **Concentrating on learning our own voice parts, and when other voice parts are being rehearsed, listen to how these interface with our own, and ON NO ACCOUNT singing along with someone else's part unless requested to by Adrian.**

These things should go without saying, but over the last couple of seasons our standards have been slipping, so we all need to tighten up our habits. Thank you all for cooperating with Adrian, Jonathan, and the rest of the choir, and let's have a superb season!

John Merrick on behalf of the Membership Committee



CHANGES TO REHEARSALS

Please note the following:

- 1) The rehearsal on **Monday 10th September** will be at **STRS** at 7:30 pm.
- 2) The rehearsals on **15/10, 29/10 and 5/11** will all be in the **Chapter House** at 7:30 pm.

Thank you
Alan Passey



AGM – BOARD ELECTIONS AND VACANCIES

The AGM will be this term (provisionally 12th November, but to be confirmed), at which we will elect the new Board of Trustees.

The following posts are falling vacant, as the incumbents are either retiring from the Board or intend to stand for election to a different position: Chairman*, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Contracts Manager, Marketing Manager, Ordinary member (x2).

(*Andrew Moodie was elected Chairman-elect last year, with the intention that he would become Chairman at this year's AGM. However, this is subject to him being elected this year, and the AGM is free to elect an alternative candidate instead.)

The remaining Board members are standing for re-election, but other candidates are welcome: Treasurer, Concert Manager, Ordinary Member (x1).

In addition to the trustees, are elected by the AGM, we are also looking for a new Rehearsals Manager and a couple of assistants for our new Librarian. These positions are not elected and are not members of the Board, and could be shared between more than one person.

A brief description of each position is below. For more details, or if you are interested in taking on a role, please contact the Secretary (Dominic Lewen): secretary@gloucesterchoral.com

Board of Trustees:

- Chairman: Chairs the Board of Trustees and coordinates the running of the Society, in particular taking lead responsibility for all operational activities (i.e. concerts and other events).
- Vice Chairman: Deputy to the Chairman, and takes lead responsibility for all membership issues, including chairing the Membership Committee.
- Secretary: Organises Board meetings (organising venues, preparing agendas and taking minutes); takes lead responsibility for Governance issues; point of contact for the Charity Commission and Making Music
- Treasurer: Looks after the Society's finances including preparing budgets, maintaining financial records and preparing reports for the Board and the AGM; chairs the Finance Committee
- Contracts Manager: Books and liaises with orchestras, soloists etc and arranges contracts.
- Concert Manager: manages concerts including chorus/stage management, front-of-house, and coordinating other concert-day activities
- Marketing Manager: coordinates the Society's marketing activities, and chairs the Marketing Committee
- Ordinary Board members: take part in collective decision-making, and take on ad-hoc roles or duties as needed

Non-board positions (not elected):

- Rehearsals Manager: books rehearsal venues; liaises with rehearsal venues over access, seating layouts etc; looks after the registers and monitors attendance (highlighting those who will need a Concert-Specific Audition)
- Librarian Assistants: assists the librarian in distributing, collecting in and sorting out music.

Dominic Lewen

secretary@gloucesterchoral.com

