

KING'S LYNN FESTIVAL CHORUS

www.kingslynnfestivalchorus.co.uk

King's Lynn Festival Chorus is a registered charity No 292455

King's Lynn Festival Chorus NEWSLETTER # 12

A new dawn is breaking is it not? After more than a year of choral deprivation an end is in sight, hopefully, on June 21st, the summer solstice, surely an auspicious day.

In the meantime, in these past eighteen months or so, life has moved on. Life will not return to 'as you were' for a good while yet, if ever, particularly while there is a threat of Covid rearing up its ugly head in a new guise.

It is under such an unusual set of circumstances that we have parted from our Music Director **Tom Appleton**. Was it Albert Einstein who said 'Time is relative' and Alexander Pope who crystallised the thought that 'Time passes quickly when you're having a good time'? Then we realise we had ten – yes, ten - memorable years with Tom at the helm (photo courtesy of 'Alice the Camera').



In those 'short' 10 years with him we have learnt, refreshed and performed several of the great and the good of the Choral repertoire – The Messiah, Creation, Monteverdi Vespers, St John Passion, Mozart Requiem, Will Todd's Mass in Blue; introduced many of us to the pure beauty of high Renaissance

music, brought internationally recognised musicians including Dame Emma Kirkby, Stile Antico and Voces8 to West Norfolk. And produced a track for a Christmas music CD collaboration with Mardi Brass which was one of five winners of Classic FM's Christmas Carol of the Year 2018. We have been on tour to Normandy, Belgium and Dublin. The former where we sang very



movingly at the Menin Gate (photo courtesy of Nick Torry). What splendid memories we have been left with. Thank you, Tom. We wish you well in the future.

We welcome Ben Horden to the position of **Music Director** of King's Lynn Festival Chorus. Formerly as our Assistant Music Director,



Ben supported the Chorus with successful online rehearsals since last September and now continues to encourage and enthuse us through this difficult period when meeting in person for rehearsals has not been

an option. Ben came to us with excellent musical pedigree both as a recitalist as well as a totally empathetic musician. On Saturday July 24 he will be taking part in the King's Lynn Festival when he will give a recital in St Nicholas Chapel on the recently restored Willis organ. His depth of knowledge and pure musicianship will play a large part in the continuing development of the Chorus, a quality obvious to musicians.

Summer and Autumn 2021

At present we are rehearsing via Zoom. The term started on May 10th under the leadership of Ben Horden. However, from 21st June, we are hopeful that we start in-person rehearsals and look forward with eager anticipation to the pure joy of singing beside someone else.

You may be asking if we are going to be part of the King's Lynn Festival this summer. Sadly, we are not. If we are allowed to restart in-person rehearsals on June 21, it would only allow three rehearsals before the start

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of the festival and that is insufficient. Our voices will be rusty and we would disappoint both the audience and ourselves.

Instead, we are preparing for two concerts in the Autumn term. The first, an **a Cappella** concert on **Saturday October 16**, to be part of the King's Lynn Autumn Festival. This will feature iconic choral motets of the post Romantic period, 20th and 21st century composers. *'I'll make Music'* from the larger work of 'Gloria' of Karl Jenkins, *'Song for Athene'* by John Tavener and *Five Spirituals* from 'A child of our Time' by Tippett will be an integral part of the programme. Further details to be released on our website www.kingslynnfestivalchorus.co.uk when finalised.

In December we will sing a **Traditional Christmas Family** concert – always an uplifting occasion that fills hearts with joy and that warm feeling of Christmas cheer and optimism.

2022 and beyond

It is difficult typing this with fingers crossed. At present we have buckets of hope but also niggles of fear that our plans may be derailed by Covid-19. In recent years it has been our objective to plan our programmes at least two years in advance, but we are having to focus more short term at present. We will hope to have more information for you as soon as we feel confident of the future for choral singing.

New Singers Welcome

It is proven that singing is one of the ways by which people can maintain or improve one's mental outlook. As we emerge from the aftermath of lockdown and its allied challenges, we are inviting new singers to join us, to spend some 'me' time each week during term time away from work, family concerns, or young children! Here's an opportunity to exercise those lungs, learn new skills, and release some of those necessary happy hormones in the company of like-minded singers.

Intending singers are warmly invited to join us from **Monday July 5th** for three weeks to the end of term. If you enjoy singing with us there will be a short, informal and privately held voice assessment – nothing to worry about, just principally to gauge the range your voice is

most comfortable in. There's **NO** sight singing involved!

If you or anyone you know is interested, please contact Wendy Hendrie, our Secretary, by email on secretary@kingslynnfestivalchorus.co.uk or through the **Contacts** page on our website www.kingslynnfestivalchorus.co.uk

We look forward to meeting many of you in July.

Hear our latest recording

The great favourite 'Cantique de Jean Racine' by Faure is our latest addition to the collection of pieces recorded via Zoom during lockdown. The piano accompaniment is by Ben Horden. This, and other recordings may be found on our website www.kingslynnfestivalchorus.co.uk

Finances



Please remember KLFC is able to benefit from your online shopping using the platform **easyfundraising**. It is 'Easy'! More than 4,500 traders will donate either a small proportion of each order or a fixed amount to any nominated charity from each sale made. And it costs you nothing!

www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/klfchorus

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Should you decide to have your details removed from our database, please contact us via our website: www.kingslynnfestivalchorus.co.uk or 'phone Wendy Hendrie (Hon.Sec) Tel 01760 721848