

KING'S LYNN FESTIVAL CHORUS

www.kingslynnfestivalchorus.co.uk

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

March 2020

OUR NEXT CONCERT

Saint Matthew Passion

Saturday 4th April 2020 6.30pm
St Nicholas' Chapel, King's Lynn

Tickets: As seating in St Nicholas' Chapel is zoned for this concert, please secure tickets in the zone of your choice. They are priced at £26, £20 and £16. FREE to under 18s.

Tickets are available from the Corn Exchange Box-Office currently sited in St George's Guildhall on King Street (tel 01553 764864) or online:

<https://www.kingslynnexchange.co.uk/whats-on/event/klfc-st-matthew-passion/>

Rehearsals are going well and we are all looking forward to performing one of the pillars of the choral repertoire.

Of course there are challenges on the way but we have certainly grown in skills and confidence overcoming them, led on very patiently by Tom and Ben. 'No pain, no gain'! Nevertheless it has confirmed what's been suspected: that Bach didn't think singers sometimes needed to come up for air!

Fundraising: Many thanks to our members, their families and friends of the Chorus who worked so hard and tirelessly to raise funds for this endeavour. To date, we have raised in excess of £7000 and hope to raise more, so donations are still very welcome, particularly to cover the larger than normal cost for the programme printing. In order to provide a better understanding of the narrative we have decided to include the full English translation of the original German that Bach used. This will mean booklets of some 40 pages, with a corresponding printing cost of over £500. Donations to help with this expense will be gratefully received. This includes offers from any companies large or small who wish to advertise. Contact our secretary for more information.

secretary@kingslynnfestivalchorus.co.uk

King's Lynn Festival Chorus NEWSLETTER #7

Hasn't time flown! Since our last Newsletter, we've had Christmas, New Year and Valentine's day. Mothering Sunday approaches and Easter follows on its heels.

Thank you to those who have used the platform Easyfundraising when ordering products online for festive gifts. Its an easy way to support us so we can endeavour to maintain the standards that you have rightfully come to expect from us.

"Great oaks from tiny acorns grow".... So as we begin the gardening and DIY projects in earnest, don't forget to purchase your requirements from this platform too!

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/klfchorus/>

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If you have a company or organisation and would like to advertise in our next concert programme on 4th April then please contact the secretary:

secretary@kingslynnfestivalchorus.co.uk

Full page: £125 - including a complementary ticket

Half page: £75

Quarter page: £50.

Names of individual sponsors can be included if they wish.

Thank you for being on our mailing list.

Please be assured that your details are secure with us and will not be given to nor used by third parties. If your details are incorrect or you no longer wish to remain on our mailing list, please contact us via the website www.kingslynnfestivalchorus.co.uk

St Matthew Passion - a brief appreciation.

This work is considered a sacred opera in some circles. Not what Bach intended though. Passions (passio =suffering) are vigils at Good Friday vespers where the last days of Christ's life are recounted. These times are spent in meditation, reflection and are deeply personal to the congregation.

Nevertheless, like an opera there are several simultaneously moving strands throughout this work:

- There's the narration of events in a musical 'spoken' manner sung by an 'Evangelist' in this work. (Notice that when Jesus 'speaks' in this declamatory style, his words are accompanied by sustained notes on stringed instruments of the orchestra, the effect sometimes described as a musical 'halo'. The only exception to this is at the point of death when the 'halo' falls silent).
- The turn of events are reflected, meditated and commented on by individuals (vocal soloists), accompanied by solo instrumentalists, in duets (or trio) of equals. Listen out for quite intricate 'weaving' and 'dialogues' between them.
- Communal hymns of collective penitence reflecting on events as they affect the human condition
- Large choruses, like 'book ends' framing the start and the end of each part of the work. Like a Greek chorus, they set the scene, play the part of the crowd in various moods, from a rabble to penitent sinners and everything else in between

Do also listen to the orchestra as they add colour and interest in various dramatic points in the proceedings.

Although St Matthew Passion is by far the longer of Bach's passions (the other being St John), it does explore and convey deeper expressions of emotions and drama. At the same time showing Bach composing at his best.

Grace Ng

Christmas Fantasia December 21st 2019 - review

The concert was a sell out! Unfortunately we had to turn people away once all 350 tickets were accounted for (the maximum we were allowed to sell in that venue).

Apologies if you or someone you know experienced this. We shall be exploring ways to accommodate a larger audience this year.

The Minster was decorated simply and very tastefully. The glow from candles in the pews gave that lovely comforting feeling and with the addition of familiar carols and readings, was the perfect antidote to events happening in the country.

Our programme of readings and music (some from the Renaissance) was very well received. A few 'wows' were heard from the audience, after Palestrina's moving **Magnum Mysterium** and the joyous **Hodie** by Sweelinck.

Alastair Legg was our fine baritone soloist in Vaughan Williams' **Christmas Fantasia**, a medley of several familiar Christmas Carols. Alistair was a Chorus member when a student several years ago and was formerly a member of the West Norfolk Youth Choir run by Pat Pressling, a retired member of the Chorus.

Our Assistant Music Director, Ben, drew great applause of appreciation with his rendition of the universally loved **Sleigh Ride** on the magnificent Minster organ. It certainly had many feet tapping at the end of it. Just goes to show a pipe organ in a sacred space can sound fun too!

What with refreshments and mince pies during the interval and Jingle Bells still ringing in our ears, audience and choristers left the venue at the end of the concert with big smiles on their faces and a spring in their step.

Christmas for many began that afternoon.

The next Carol concert will be on Dec 19th 2020 so mark it in your diaries and watch this space for details.

Grace Ng

Looking forward...

King's Lynn Festival Chorus will be performing on 19th July in the **2020 King's Lynn Festival** which this year marks their 70th anniversary. More details of our concert will be revealed when the Festival Committee launches the full programme.

For your diaries

This year, 2020 is the 250th anniversary of the **birth of Beethoven**. It is thus fitting and appropriate that we salute the great man who gave so much to the world of music.

To celebrate this milestone, we will be performing his only large scale oratorio **Missa Solemnis**, on the evening of **Saturday 7th November**. Watch this space for further details that are being finalised at the moment.

People...

Congratulations

To Tom, our MD, for his appointment as the new Music Director to the prestigious Aldeburgh Music Club at Snape Maltings, a group started by Benjamin Britten in 1952.

Welcome (from January)

Ilga Chakrabarti, Anil Chakrabarti, Patrick Talbot, Evelyn Nadar, Emma Valois-Booth, Paul Richmond

Au revoir

John Large, Di Hilton

New members

New members are always welcome. That singing is good for one's health is now widely accepted and proven.

Whether it's for a bit of 'me-time' after a stressful day at work to regain some equilibrium, or other reasons, it's a good thing to 'let off some steam' with other like-minded folk, learning with and from each other, guided always by our professionals Tom and Ben.

It helps if you can follow a musical score and hold a tune and it doesn't matter if the last time you sang in a choir was at school. Tom and Ben will be able to assess your vocal abilities. It's an ideal hobby if you are new to the area and a great way to make new friends.

The start of the new summer session is **Monday 4th May** at 7.15 in Springwood High School.

We look forward to seeing many new faces then.

For more information please email the Secretary: secretary@kingslynnfestivalchorus.co.uk
Alternatively message via Facebook or Twitter @kl_festchorus, or on the CONTACT page of our website www.kingslynnfestivalchorus.co.uk