

DRYBROOK & DISTRICT LADIES CHOIR

NEWSLETTER EASTER 2017

2017

WEDS 3rd May 7pm Bursary Auditions

SAT 10th JUNE 7.30pm Forest Church 200th Anniversary Concert

SAT 8th JULY 7pm Forest Church Bursary Concert

SAT 2nd DEC to sing 7.30 – 8pm Drybrook RFC for Breast Cancer

Dear Ladies,

What an exciting time for our choir! We have never had the honour of singing in Gloucester Cathedral and I know that we face this coming month with a measure of nervousness and anticipation. As you are aware, the organisers have arranged a joint rehearsal in the cathedral for 1pm-3pm on the day. We have been asked to arrive from 12.30pm and have been allocated a room for the ladies to use (sadly no room is available for the men!). We will need to organise our seating arrangements in the Cathedral as well as where we will stand to sing too. So here is a rough guide to the times of the day:

12.30pm	Arrive and find our room.
1pm-3pm	Joint Rehearsals. – we may be allocated a slot just for the Ladies here. The Male choirs will certainly need to rehearse as they won't have done any joint practise as we have. We won't know until the day.
3.15pm-5pm	Cathedral function (this may be evensong to which you might like to stay) or you will have time to eat a snack/lunch, pop into the city, and do makeup and hair ready for the evening.
5.15pm-6.15pm	Extra practise at the discretion of the MD.
6.15pm – 7pm	Doors open 6.30pm for audience. Coats on and in situ for the concert which starts at 7pm.

The National Anthem at the end has 2 verses in the programme, so we will need the words.

Please ensure you bring **water** for drinking, **food** for a snack lunch and wear enough **clothes to stay warm**. In my experience the cathedral is very, very cold, and whilst attending past events there I have been frozen stiff! It certainly won't help if we are sitting still or just standing around. Maybe a blanket to wrap over your knees, a warm scarf and a pair of gloves wouldn't be amiss! (memo to self: take some hand warmers for Linda Speed!). I have asked Josie to arrange the coach to take us to Gloucester for a 12.30pm arrival, so we will leave at 12noon from Drybrook Bandroom.

REPORTS & REVIEWS:

Visit to Witcombe Ladies Choir: Thanks to all of you who came to Witcombe Village Hall. Both Linda and I felt that we gave a good account of ourselves, and benefitted from the joint performances. It was very strange having to juggle the standing arrangements, but overall I think it worked. Tim is used to conducting his choir the way they stand, and I am used to conducting our choir standing our way. The overall sound was extremely good, and I did notice that many of their singers were looking at me and not their music. One or two said they couldn't see me and were singing 'blind' which can cause a voice to come in or hang on too long, so we will have to ensure that I am high enough for all to see. Perhaps we will be able to use the tiers that the men will have.

On the day, being confident as to where you stand to sing will be crucial to the smooth running of getting into position, so it's vital that we have been able to iron these little things out before the Concert. I have to say the beautiful sound of the Altos in This Little Light of Mine made all the difference to the song. Thanks to Allison for organising the tickets and posters too. We look forward to hosting them on the 19th April.

COMING NEXT:

Sat 25th March am: Spring Fayre at the Bandroom. Usual stalls on an Easter Theme – Raffle, White Elephant and Tombola with wonderful Refreshments. Doors open 10.30am to set up.

**Sectional Practises are proving to be very beneficial. Section to arrive for a 6.45pm start
The others to arrive for a 7.15pm start**

**Mar. 15th Seconds Mar. 22nd Altos
Mar. 29th Sops April 5th Seconds April 12th Altos**

April 19th 7pm Wide Valley visit us for a final rehearsal.

Sat April 22nd Concert at Gloucester Cathedral Coach 12noon at Drybrook bandroom

SAT 29th APRIL 7pm: Christchurch Church Concert for Berry Hill Band - lovely acoustics in that Church. Be there at 6.30pm if possible please. Funds raised for The Band

We have had a few enquiries about events this year including a concert for Berry Hill Band in April, and a wedding at Parkend Church in June, both of which have been added to the diary. Please check them out with your own diaries and make every effort to fulfil these engagements. It's essential we have a good balance of sound at these events. Thanks a million.

In 2018, we celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Margaret Rose Bursary. The committee have already chatted about 'Doing something Special' to celebrate – as we did for the 10th Anniversary at the Forest Theatre. This would also be the Annual Bursary Concert, and a venue has already been tentatively booked for the occasion. If you have any ideas about how we can celebrate this event, please let us know ASAP.

Many in the choir have been suffering from the winter bugs that are have been doing the rounds this year. We hope that now Spring has sprung, we can look forward to a healthy season of singing for pleasure. It just leaves me enough space to wish you all a very Happy Easter with your family and friends.

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