

Details of rehearsal and concert dates, times and venues as well as committee contact email addresses are on the website

2016 -17

Concert Performances

Spirit of Christmas 3/12/16

Handel Messiah 17/12/16

BBC Christmas Concert
22/12/16

SWCS Singing Day with
Mary King 28/1/17

Poulenc Gloria/Dove There was
a Child 25/3/17

Faure Requiem/Boulanger
Choral Pieces 24/6/17

Term Dates

Autumn

Mon 5th September -
Thurs 22nd December

Spring

Mon 9th January -
Mon 27th March

Summer

Mon 24th April -
Sun 24th June

Looking Forward

First, do we celebrate enough our enormous good fortune? Not only do we have the wonderful Saffron Hall as our primary concert venue, but also the opportunity to deliver first performances—and from our very own living composer! That's why we should strive to and hopefully achieve ever improving standards which gain the praise of the soloists who perform with us as well as audiences and reviewers.

The Way Forward

The committee have thought long and hard about all the suggestions made for The Way Forward.

The key items worth highlighting are:- SignuptoSing (more about this over the page), Patrons Donors and Ambassadors, the Hinxtton collaboration, SW Initiatives Societies' Day and the diversifying of performances, which have so far included the Roger Williams Memorial and the Queen's 90th Birthday celebrations. An extra Christmas concert with the BBC Concert Orchestra is coming up in December.

New SWCS Patron & Ambassadors Scheme. Please do have a look at the 2016/17 brochure/website for more information. We have been supported splendidly by Yellow Car for a number of years, but we need actively to find additional and alternative sources of funding. The three new opportunities will involve: Ambassadors (promoting the choir and its activities), Donors (any donation, hopefully gift aided) and Patrons (significant, specific donations such as conductor, orchestra, in memoriam concert, eg Britten's War Requiem in November 2017). All of our supporters will be invited to an annual Supporters' Reception, receive regular updates and may have their names included in our programmes. You can be any of these worthy supporters as a choir member too! Please contact Kathie Neal or Louise Luke.

Hinxtton. We are working with the Genome Centre at Hinxtton, with a view to holding a workshop for staff in the near future.

A date and exact format has yet to be agreed, but there is enthusiasm from both sides to develop links in a number of ways. This could be a commissioned work relating to their theme research into genomes, and, in the shorter term, a possible source of new singers.

Opportunities for members to socialise more was a popular idea in The Way Forward survey, hopefully answered in the after concert parties and after rehearsals at the pub. Also, opportunities to volunteer to help. Thank you those who already contribute so variously. This coming year there are new opportunities! Please have a look at the 'Volunteers please' section over the page.

Reviewing the financial status of SWCS, apart from the new initiatives, is also about making the subs both fair and working best for the Society and members and we hope you will agree with the proposals. More information will have been/ will be sent to members about the Way Forward and subs proposals for next year.

Jane Ridler, Secretary



The Queen's 90th birthday celebration in June

AGM 2016

The AGM will be held on Monday 26th September. A big thank you to our accompanist, Richard, to our President, Sean, to the committee for all their hard work this year and to all members for enthusiasm; but especially to Janet who works for so many hours to make the concerts happen. We have a great time!



Musical Director's Review

Hope you've all had a great summer and not missing singing too much – it won't be long till we're back together again rehearsing for an exciting term ahead.

I've been busy finishing a commission for Southampton Philharmonic Choir - *I Sing and Ever Shall*, another 20 minute choral and orchestral piece to be performed with the Mozart Requiem! (This one on November 26th 2016) The first draft vocal score is now delivered (phew!), which has meant at last there's been a chance to go and see Ade Hare and do a bit of mixing on the recording of the Thaxted concert. Hope you'll all have a chance to hear it soon! Listening to *The Ceaseless Round of Circling Planets* made me realise how very fortunate I am to work with such a forward-looking choir as SWCS! You were totally willing to experiment and take on all the various things I'd asked for in that piece. I can't thank you enough for your enthusiasm and your go-for-it approach! I was really blown away with the reception the audience gave it. I must thank SWCS for



the commission, as well as Gareth for his willingness to programme it at Thaxted and of course Anna for teaching herself how to play the wonderful waterphone and helping to develop the possibilities of the part.

What a fabulous end to our season the Thaxted concert was – especially having all those young singers from SWCHS join us for the Mozart. Two of them have already asked to join the choir next term, so it's great that SWCS is helping to encourage the next generation of choral singers.

From next season we'll also be doing that through taking SignuptoSing under the SWCS wing. Jane (Evans) and I will be rehearsing with them just before SWCS rehearsals, which will allow some overlap when helpful and will give the possibility of SWCS both supporting and joining with SignuptoSing's informal performances.

By the way, you might have noticed that it has been quite a while since the last round of SWCS re-auditions. These are supposed to happen every three years, so we're planning to catch up with them over the coming season. Carol and I will work out some dates and then you'll be able to book a slot.

We have an unusual schedule next term – with three different concerts in December – all very exciting. Lots of singing to do before then of course. I can't wait!

Janet Wheeler, Musical Director



Thaxted...In rehearsal.....

Volunteers please!

SignuptoSing Rehearsals

These will take place on many Mondays from 6.15pm (see rehearsal schedule on website). If we can get a reasonable number of people to volunteer to help out with the youngsters, then nobody need turn up every week. Please contact Jane Evans (jfevans@tesco.net) if you can help—you don't have to be a teacher!

Rehearsal Venue

We certainly had a few problems with overheating in the rehearsal room last term. After looking round for alternatives, the committee decided that SWCHS remains our best option. But we have arranged for better ventilation in the warmer weather and the removal of all the school's dining furniture before rehearsals. It will need a few volunteers each week to help do the removals please.

Refreshments

Both to encourage intra-voice section cohesion (!) and spread the load for serving, the Voice Reps will be organising tea/coffee on a term by term basis this year; sopranos in Autumn, all men, Spring and altos, summer. Look out for an email!

SW Initiatives Societies' Day

We are, after some years 'off', I believe, going to use the opportunity of SW Initiatives' Societies' Day this year. It's on Saturday 10th September and will publicise our existence to any potential audience or singers who live in the Saffron Walden area. If you could give an hour on that day to enthuse about SWCS at the Town Hall please email me. (JR)



...and in performance.....