



Issue No: 2

January 2010

Welcome to the second issue of 'In TUNE' and a very happy new year to all our members old & new! I hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas it was nice to have a break! I had a very busy December with concerts both attending and taking part! I am glad that our concert on the 10th December 2009 was well received and worthwhile and above all enjoyable!

Thank you to those who commented on my first efforts at being a newsletter editor, most of which were complimentary; however I know I have a long way to go before it gets more professional looking.

When I first had the idea of starting 'IN TUNE' last summer- 2009! I thought that I was going to use my period of un-employment to get to grips with my role as 'IN TUNE' editor. As life happens, when you have other plans; I became re- employed albeit on a part time basis in July 2009! I will probably go full time as and when the economic situation improves and the order book hopefully swells; I have to say that I am enjoying my new job very much, so I can't complain, especially there are SO many out there who aren't so lucky in these un-certain times.

Haydn- The Creation 6th February 2010

Our next concert is only a few weeks away. We have been rehearsing for this since early September 2009 with a short break for our Christmas concert rehearsals, in my opinion; I think the Creation rehearsals are going very well.

I had a quick look at our soloists on You Tube while I had no luck with finding *Paul Curievici* nor *Matthew Sprange*; I did however, see a delightful video of *Eva Ganizate* singing Puccini's La Rondine "and divine sweet hours" a 2009 master class with José Cura The audience and the BCS members taking part are certainly in for a treat!

Publicity of Haydn – The Creation and all our concerts

In view of the amount of sheer hard work put in by all of us for this concert we ought to do our utmost to sell as many tickets as possible. This means publicising the concert as much as we can. To do this we need to place posters etc on every available position. **Everyone** lives in a parish and hopefully not too far from a parish Church.

Most parishes have a public notice board to place adverts etc. some shops have notice boards too (usually for a small fee) We **ALL** owe it to ourselves in the BCS to place posters on **ALL** the parish notice boards Church notice boards (even where access is difficult, chat the Vicar etc) I feel very strongly about this; it is no use thinking that someone else will do it, because that someone will be as busy as YOU are, and that someone cannot do it ALL on their own. The summer concert and previous concerts I spent nearly a whole day putting up posters everywhere within 10 miles of Mollington. I will of course be putting up posters within Mollington, Warmington and Farnborough as they are all close by. We have approximately 80 members so imagine if ALL the parishes including the churches of all these members put a poster up the concert attendees could be immense!

If we don't publicise the concerts and put bums on seats, then we will undoubtedly lose money, especially on major works such as the Creation! We literally cannot afford to let this happen! So please make sure that we ALL grab some posters and put them up wherever you can and sell those tickets, pretty please!!!

Don't forget that there is reward to the person that sells the largest number of tickets. So sell sell sell !!!

The role of the Conductor!

What does the conductor do? This may seem obvious, but is it?

When watching the New Year day concert from Vienna on the TV, I was fascinated to watch the relationship between the *Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra* and their conductor *Georges Prêtre*. One thing that stood out is that not only did ALL the musicians keep a careful eye on the score but more importantly also kept an eye on the conductor. Now I know that different conductors have different styles; some are very expressive with their face, to indicate the mood of the piece – a bit like certain soloists! Some conductors move their arms with or without a Baton all over the place like a windmill!

George, did none of this, in fact his Baton was very limp in his hand but ALL the musicians looked at him just at the right time and he knew it and they also knew Georges style, somehow it all worked, some would say that the Vienna Philharmonic are such proficient musicians that George did not need to try so hard...maybe!!

I am sure that some of you may remember that series on TV 2/3 years ago, when a various celebrities had a 'go' at conducting, culminating with the winner conducting an orchestra at the Proms in the park event. It was another fascinating TV programme, one of the very few worth watching along with 'The Choir' Series.

The common factor in all these programmes was that of the importance of the role of the conductor. The conductor is the

‘driver’ of the musicians’ he/she has to get all the musicians to play/sing exactly at the right time and to co-ordinate it all very carefully.

The conductor is crucial to the togetherness and overall sound of the orchestra and/or choir. It is therefore imperative that we as musicians look to him/her for guidance of the music as often other musicians are doing things that we not necessarily aware of!

Anyone who attended the superb concert of Karl Jenkins ‘Stella Natalis’ just before Christmas at St Mary’s conducted by the man himself Karl Jenkins, would have noticed, that despite being all competent and professional musicians, they ALL watched Karl almost constantly especially the choir.

So we **ALL MUST watch Keith** it is crucially important that we do so. I and no doubt others, cannot all read music fluently, so watching Keith I find is the only way to get the timing etc right.

Remember eyes front!

Enjoying singing!

A personal view by **Eileen Bharali**.

What a joy it is to sing. Imagine this-humans developing language from a series of grunts over thousands of years and then learning to sing! Another good reason to believe in God’s wonderful work.

It was great to be part of the BCS Christmas concert on the 10th December 2009; then to see so many BCS members at the Karl Jenkins ‘Stella Natalis’ concert.

The singers and orchestra were super but it was the composition and arrangements that inspired us all. Karl

Jenkins music is like a stick of seaside rock, it has ‘Karl Jenkins’ written all through it! Every phrase and harmony was so beautiful it was almost edible! The choir were truly magnificent, had they been merely talented, we might have made an invidious comparison but the genius of the music was so inspiring! It has made me realise again, this is what our voices were made for; to sing in praise as best we are able.

Afterwards, I asked Karl Jenkins to marry me; I think he said “yes” in welsh! (I think Karl Jenkins is spoken for, Eileen! *Ed*) All the very best to everyone for the Creation – ‘lets hope it’s a good one, without any fears!’ (*Ed*)

Well thanks for that Eileen: more of the same *please* from everyone!

Future BCS Concerts

Saturday 6th February 2010, Haydn The Creation Banbury Choral Society at St Mary’s Church Horsefair, Banbury 7:30!

Saturday 12th June 2010 St John Passion Banbury Choral Society at St Mary’s Church, Horsefair, Banbury 7:30

BCS History

Thank you to those members who have placed some archive material to be included in our new website. It makes fascinating reading especially to ‘new boys’ like myself and re-kindles fond memories of the older boys and girls.

Recently I ordered a copy of the old Novello version of ***Haydn The Creation*** this was a special copy dated

5th October 1991 and interestingly enough St Mary's Banbury was mentioned on the inside jacket however our archive shows that it took place at the Chenderit School! It was a Voices for Hospices copy when there was a simultaneous performance of Haydn The Creation. It was described by The Earl of Harewood KBE as an explosion of sound! Well the Representation of Chaos certainly popped one of the cones of my speakers so it must have been quite a sound indeed!

In view of what the poor people of Haiti are going through, perhaps we could do something along similar lines?

NOTICEBOARD

FOR SALE

**Challen Baby Grand Piano
circa 1950, in good
condition. Please speak
with Shan Cullington on
01926 640064 or email
her:-
roy@thequadrant1.plus.com**

Useful websites

www.banburychoralsoc.co.uk
www.banburysound.co.uk
www.livearts-at-stmarys.co.uk
www.thehoopers.demon.co.uk/index.html
www.concert-diary.com
www.deddingtonfestival.org.uk
www.youtube.com

The reason I mention 'you tube', there is a video of

Eva Ganizate just type her name in the search box. There are also a number of choral performances both good and some not so good; you decide which, including many performances of Haydn The Creation!!

These are just a few of the thousands available that hopefully some of you can suggest many more However I would suggest that we stick to musical interests.

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE
Send in as many items for the
next issue of 'IN TUNE as
possible.

'IN TUNE' is YOUR newsletter so to maintain interest amongst members and others, please contribute as much as you can. I'd rather have too much material than too little! (*And not necessarily from me neither! Ed*)

The next issue (No3) should be out in time (he says hopefully! *Ed*) for our next work which as you all know is

J S Bach St John Passion
12th June 2010

STOP PRESS STOP PRESS

Members of Choral Societies from all over north Oxfordshire are combining to rehearse and perform this exciting work as part of this year's Deddington Festival

Martin Quinn and Elsa Williams together with the Deddington Festival are organising a performance of ***Carmina Burana*** On Saturday 19th June 2010 at Deddington Church. If you are interested then speak with Elsa, our pianist For entry forms see Elsa and/or the website

www.deddingtonfestival.org.uk

The next page is from our Chairman - Liz Scamans

All contributions for IN TUNE please (don't be shy!) to

bcsintune@google.com

Simon Angel IN TUNE Editor

From your Chairman:

I hope you are all enjoying rehearsals for 'The Creation'.

We are making some changes in the running of the society. At the AGM I introduced the idea of working groups and our new Admin Team, Helen Forde, Sian Miller and Mary Hillier, is already in place. Helen holds the list of current members: if you are on email, you will already have received messages from her. If you haven't received emails from Helen then please do contact her on helen.forde@lovells-online.co.uk and she will add you to the mailing list. If you are not on email, then we will keep you informed using the usual Monday announcements and handouts. If you have information, which you would like to send to other choir members, then please contact Helen.

Mary Hillier and Sian Miller are running the members' box office. All ticket money and unsold tickets should be given to either Mary or Sian. Mary is also taking care of registers, so please return them to her at the end of rehearsal. Sian is also helping the committee, as Minutes Secretary.

The running of the society will benefit from this team approach in other areas. We already have a small group of members (headed by Matthew Tims) committed to setting up and dismantling the staging for concerts. However, it would be good to have a number of people who are able to organise setting up so that the responsibility doesn't rest with the same people for every concert, so please do offer your help if possible.

Other people have expressed interest in helping to organise social activities and to take care of members' interests (getting feedback from members on the society and acting on this). I hope to get these groups working in the near future. If you would like to help please let me know.

As a society we want to get ourselves more well known and recognised as the major singing group in Banbury. Michele Hunter has been working on a revamp of our web site, which is one route by which we can present ourselves to the public. This is now

up and running, so please do visit www.banburychoralsoc.co.uk to explore the new content.

Another way in which we can increase public interest and our concert audience is through our posters and programmes. Our posters have our new eye-catching logo and we intend to spend more on programme production in order to present ourselves as 'professional' and 'worthy of sponsorship' by local business.