

News from the chorus that is set to
become the leading choir in the South-East.

Autumn 2005

— Successful Launch —

The transition from Guildford Philharmonic Choir to Vivace Chorus has gone pretty smoothly; there now seems to be a buzz about the place and genuine feeling of pride and enthusiasm amongst members. Of course, there are always things that can be improved.

Great support

The number of choir members who have offered to help with the myriad of tasks needed to get the choir in its new guise off the ground has been wonderful and has helped to create a real momentum. Thank you all.

Vivace World Tour Gets Under Way.

London, Croydon, Germany, Guildford, Godalming ... where next? [Watch this space. Ed]

~ Last Night in Croydon ~

Fairfield Hall shook to the rafters as the combined forces of HMS Victory's 'canon' and the Vivace Chorus boomed out at the recent 'Last Night of the Proms' concert to which the choir was invited.

Every seat was taken for the evening's concert. The programme included two movements from Haydn's Nelson Mass and a medley of songs and orchestrations in celebration of the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar and 60th anniversary of the end of World War II. Songs such as "We'll meet again ...", "... and the nightingale sang ..." not forgetting of course, "Land of Hope and Glory" proved enormously popular. We could have done with a bit more to sing, but it was a good start to what we hope will become an annual event.

~ European union ~

Seventy choir members are joining forces with Freiburg's Bach Choir to sing Verdi's Requiem in their magnificent konzerthaus set high in the Black Forest in November. This will be the 6th occasion when we have sung with the German choir.

~ London leg ~

A core of 50 or so choir members travelled up to Trafalgar Square's St Martin's-in-the-Field beautiful church to sing Vivaldi's 'Gloria' to a packed house in September. It was a memorable and polished concert and got our name known to a wider audience.

~ The 'C' Concert ~

The Charterhouse Chapel beckons Vivace Chorus singers for a charity Christmas concert on behalf of CHASE on Thursday 15th December. This should be a lot of fun, involve no extra rehearsals, will get our name known to a wider audience and help 'our' charity at the same time. What could be better!



Welcome to the ranks.

A warm welcome to the 9 new **Vivace Chorus** members who have joined us since the start of the new season.

Sopranos **Eleanor Raynesford** and **Olivia Rowland**; altos **Jane Crane**, **Nicky Higgs** and **Beryl Northam**; tenors **Adam Boniface** and **Tony Chantler** and bases **Jonathan Draper** and **Robin Privett**.

We hope you enjoy singing with us as we embark on one of the most exciting periods in the choir's 58 year-old history.

Team update.

You will remember that four working parties were created to help with our choir's re-branding. 39 members offered to join them and they have all been working seriously hard behind the scenes making some great improvements.

EVENTS ~ leader John Britten

Making concerts more of an event is this group's brief, and what a start they have made!

Anybody who sang in the concert on 22nd October will hardly have failed to notice the innovations brought about by this team: much **faster serving of tea** being a small but important improvement to our rehearsal. (We have been asked by the Cathedral that choir members **do not** bring their own food into the refectory; please could all take note. An alternative venue is under discussion as we go to print.) It was also so rewarding

Important notice: Don't forget that Monday rehearsals start promptly at 7.30.

that the **pre-concert talk** given by Martin Hall was a 'sell-out' with over 100 people in the Chapter House and overflowing into the transept outside. It was a fascinating and enjoyable event, showing Martin at his brilliant, most enthusiastic and humorous best. A bigger venue will be needed for the March concert, not to mention May when we hope to have the composer Francis Potts himself. Get the word around.

It was a wonderful first for our choir; very well received and – as the name of this team implies – making the concert so much more of an event. Well done all those who got this initiative off the ground.

The ongoing search for a solution to the stage rigging issue persists. *[Answers to the problem on a post card to the ed. please]*

MARKETING ~ leader Hilary Trigg

Formerly known as the 'Awareness Team', the group itself has now been re-branded, to be known as 'Team Marketing', its clear focus being to **promote the choir** and get us better known in the South East. The impressive corporate logo and layout displayed on all the promotional material have given the choir a very polished and professional air. So too have the articles published in the local press and written by members of this team.

Our link with the charity CHASE is as a direct consequence of moves by this working party, with the two concerts in Croydon and at Charterhouse the fruits of their efforts. *Carol Hobbs* is working hard to organise the co-ordination of display material and Choir members are asked to help by adding to her list of locations where posters can be put.

CUSTOMER CONTACTS ~ leader Bob Cowell



Set the task of acquiring an increased audience base, this group has made an exceptional start by redesigning our **web site** (www.vivacechorus.org). It is a truly professional site and must be seen to be believed. Set up as the 'Acquisition Team', this group has been re-Christened as the 'Customer Contacts' team.

If you know of any means by which we can increase our **Mailing List**, Bob and his team would certainly appreciate hearing from you.

INTERNAL ~ leader James Garrow

1) Having fun, 2) keeping you informed about what is going and 3) fundraising sum up the three aims of this team. This Newsletter is just one of the results of the work being done behind the scenes. *[If you have any ideas for articles, etc, please let us know.]*

Our first foray into fundraising is the design of Christmas cards by one of our patrons, Margaret Dentskavich. There is a choice of four each costing only 40p. Please support the choir this Christmas by placing orders as soon as possible.

Through our recent survey, we asked you what you wanted or expected from the choir; how (and if) you would like to have fun, to socialise or to help to raise extra funds. We were very pleased at the response and the results are published alongside this newsletter. We hope the next year will be a lot of fun, with something for everybody. We *always* welcome new ideas; please let us know what you want. We'll do our best.



Vivace Chorus ~ sounds great.

Sponsorship opportunities.

Performing concerts of the quality and frequency that we do, cost a great deal.

We need YOU!

Tickets sales form the firm foundation that enables us to pay towards the orchestra, soloists and venue, and are clearly crucial. *Everybody* can help with this; please could we all search our address books, our colleagues, our relations and each determine to sell tickets to (at least) three couples per concert. Why not start with the March concert for practice?! This will give us a solid base to work with.

What sort of company do you keep?

We are now in the seriously important business of finding companies willing to help fund our activities – whether a concert, the orchestra, a series of concerts, or any other aspect of our music-making.

Various options for businesses are now open to companies who want to get their names known to a wider, discerning audience.

May you help?

Our May concert ~ the 2nd in our Contemporary Choral Classics cycle with the wonderful, world-famous Philharmonia Orchestra ~ is a wonderful opportunity for a go-ahead company to raise their profile in the South East.

If you have any friends, bosses, partners or relatives who like the Arts and want to raise their profile, please help.

Just let James or Bob know and they'll do the rest.

REMINDERS x 2

* You must *always* have a pencil to note Jeremy's instructions.

* Nattering annoys others. Too many complaints about talking during rehearsals are being received. Please don't.