

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

Autumn '06

## Full House for Opera Buffs

How nice to be singing to a full house as we did in the Fairfield Halls recently. An audience of over 2,000 came from all over the south of England for the 'Last Night of the Proms-with-an-opera flavour' concert, and were certainly not disappointed.

### ~ JB to the rescue ~

The soloists were quite superb, as was the orchestra and there were plenty of complimentary comments about the 2<sup>nd</sup> basses, augmented as they were by Jeremy B, our Director of Music.

### ~ Commitment ~

It was noticeable, however, that the Choir was not up to optimum strength and as a result were unable to make Verdi, Puccini and others sound as full-blooded as they should have done, had we had greater numbers.

### ~ A question of taste ~

We readily appreciate that Opera choruses aren't to everyone's taste; and yet if we are to function as one of the best choirs in the South, we do need to ensure that each and every member – holidays and unavoidable work and family commitments apart – commits themselves to *all* the concerts we put on if humanly possible.

### ~ More venues ~

We are busy working on some exciting new concert venues for the coming months, and if we are unsure of your support, it is going to make our negotiations very difficult.

### ~ Nice cup of tea ~

In spite of the Fairfield Halls concert not being everybody's cup of tea, there was no question but that it went very well indeed and was a lot of fun.

## Christmas is coming

So let's have some fun!!!

Looking at the results of last year's Choir Survey, it is clear that a large majority of you would appreciate some form of Christmas Party.



### Yuletide fun

On Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December, our Director of Music, Jeremy B has kindly agreed to give up half of the rehearsal time to a 'Choir Bash'. We have booked the Music Hall at Prior's Field School in Godalming – where we had our 'Vivace Launch Party' – with some wine, great fundraising ideas, a raffle and much more. In addition to all of this ...



### Chance of a lifetime

It is going to be an even more special evening as Jeremy Filsell is going to treat us all to a short recital. What with this and a soupçon of home-brewed entertainment, it looks like being a wonderful start to Christmas this year.

### Take your partner ...

We are so convinced that the evening is going to be such a success that we want to share it with more people. So do bring a partner.

### Unbelievable but true!

For a mere £4 per head you can sip a glass of fine wine (or soft drink), have something to nibble, sit back to a recital by our very own international celebrity followed by a little light entertainment and time to chat into the bargain.

### Move along there. Tickets please.

Tickets are on sale from Alan Batterbury at rehearsals, or you can order (but not, I'm afraid, pay for) them online at: [alan.batterbury@ntlworld.com](mailto:alan.batterbury@ntlworld.com) and he will set some aside.

## The Ultimate in Puds

The Vivace Chorus is very proud to present its very own Plum Pudding for your Christmas fare. A truly scrumptious Christmas pud featuring our own logo is being made for us by a small Cumbrian craft manufacturer.



### Little and Large

The puddings in two sizes, 1lb @ £5.75 and 2lb @ £9.75 have won a **Gold** at the food industry's 'Oscars' and are seriously gorgeous. They are the perfect present for your family, friends and office staff or simply to enjoy yourself. The Order Forms can be picked up at rehearsals. Don't miss out on this great, yummy new Choir fundraising spectacular.

## Super CD Sale

As if one fundraiser wasn't enough, we have another musical one as well: We all have those odd few CDs in our racks at home which

How many tickets have YOU sold for the November concert? Rumour has it that there's a race on to see who can sell the most! Why not give it a go?

are wonderful and yet haven't been listened to since 1983. You know the ones?

### Christmas shopping made easy

We are asking if you would donate these unwanted musical treasures to the Choir by bringing them in to rehearsals. Brenda Moore (the brains behind the idea) will store them for you until they go on sale at the **Christmas Party (18 Dec) CD stall** when, hopefully, we will have a veritable cornucopia of music for you to buy and **raise much needed funds** for the Choir. Please help to make this great initiative a success, both in clearing your collection of unwanted CDs, and in supporting your choir.

### A very

### warm welcome ...

... to the 12 new singers who have recently joined the Vivace Chorus:

*Sopranos:* Vivien Rieden, Paula Sutton, Catherine McAulay and Genevieve Pott; *Altos:* Jane Crane, Beryl Northam, Deborah Bayliss, Liz Durning and Isobel Rooth. *Tenors:* Tony Chantler and John Bawden, and *bass* Robin Privett. It is wonderful to have so many new singers on board and we hope you really enjoy your time with the Vivace Chorus as we move into our 60th anniversary year.

### Let's sell out!

Ticket sales for our exciting 'German Romantics' November concert are going well, and yet we really need a tremendous sales push over the coming weeks. Your friends and relatives may not have heard of Hugo Wolf, but Brahms and Bruckner each rates as one of the greats. The former's **Violin Concerto** must be one of



the best in the repertoire; while the magic of Bruckner's **Te Deum** will not be lost on anybody who hears it.

### One of the best

There is little doubt that this concert should rank amongst the very best we have done in recent years. Our advertising is incredibly professional-looking nowadays and mustn't be allowed to be wasted on empty seats in the Cathedral. Let's go for it!

### Can you help?

Ticket sales are not our only source of revenue from concerts however.

#### ~ Golden opportunities ~

There is huge potential not only for advertising in our concert programmes, but also for individuals or companies to **sponsor** a whole or part of a concert.

#### ~ Something for everyone ~

We have opportunities to fit every pocket or marketing budget: from **£300 to sponsor a soloist to £15,000 for an entire concert**.

If even vaguely interested, please see **John Trigg** our Chairman or **James Garrow** (B2) for more details.

### Raffle Prizes

As you read above, we are holding a Giant Raffle at the Christmas Party in December and this is a plea for each and every member to see how they can contribute to the fun.

#### Have you got the bottle?



Prizes of every shape and size are wanted to make the Party an evening to remember. Do you have a **cottage** or a **boat** that you could offer for a weekend? Do you have access to **Christmas hampers** or other exotic festive fare? Can you get hold of a **restaurant voucher** or

two from your favourite dining establishment? How about asking that local boutique for a **voucher**? Perhaps your company could donate a **case of wine** or an **evening at the Royal Opera House**? Have you any unwanted **bottles of Port** (!) or perhaps an exotic **box of chocolates** that you could give for the cause?



#### Everything gratefully received

Whatever you can offer will be very gratefully received. Please bring prizes to our Raffle Box at rehearsals or hand to **Norman Carpenter** (B2). A HUGE thank you in anticipation of a great response.

### Season's Greetings

We aim to have a range of specially designed **Vivace Christmas cards** available for you to buy shortly, with a proportion of their costs going to the choir.



#### No regrets

We urge you not to buy any cards until you've seen ours! We're convinced that you won't regret it. Out soon!

### Date for your diary

We are planning to hold a **Choir Quiz Night** in the centre of Guildford in the Spring. The tentative date is **Thursday 1st March** so don't waste any time in swotting up on the general knowledge and planning a team. Details out as soon as we have more details.

### 60th Birthday Party

Next year sees us entering our 60<sup>th</sup> concert season and should be marked in a special way. If anybody has any great ideas, please let us know.

*It's been a great first season for Vivace. Let's make the second even better.*