

Guildford Philharmonic Choir 1991-92

Maxwell New

Our 1991-92 Season should prove to be as equally challenging and worthwhile as our last season. We will again be joined in Guildford by our friends from Freiburg in October 1992 for a joint performance with the "Bachchoir" singing Brahms' Requiem. We hope to go back to Freiburg the following April to perform Israel in Egypt, although details are not as yet finalised.

Our main works this year will be:

9 November - Handel, Israel in Egypt, under Neville Creed

7 March - Blake's Benedictus under Sir Charles Groves

2 May - Vaughan Williams's Sea Symphony under Sir Charles Groves. We will be holding our second "choral workshop" at Guildford University in February. Details are not as yet finalised, but may be influenced by our recent 'Opera Greats' Festival at Petworth House on 30 June with the Royal Philharmonic Opera Orchestra which we all enjoyed very much in spite of the weather. This did not however prevent an Audience of 6000 attending. The Concert ended with fireworks!

The Choir and Committee are very aware of the obligation on the G.P. Choir to reach a standard in our singing which is worthy of our fine Orchestra and in view of the amount of music to be rehearsed for the coming season we have continued our rehearsals through to the end of July this year rather than ending our season after the Petworth Concert. As a result we have broken the back of "Egypt in Israel" and I would like to thank such a large proportion of the choir who have made this extra effort. I am sure it will prove to have been worthwhile.

Finally, may I thank my committee for all its hard work, particularly Geoff Forster who in spite of being on sick leave after a very serious illness still managed to organise our Barbeque party at Merrist Wood College on 8 July much enjoyed by a large number of members and families.

It is difficult to find words to adequately thank Neville Creed and Lynette Newman for their inspiration at rehearsals and to thank Peter White, our Deputy Choir Master. I am sure we all look forward to our first rehearsal of the 1991-92 season in September.

LETTER FROM GUILDFORD PHILHARMONIC CHOIR'S CHAIRMAN - MAXWELL NEW

Fleet House
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August 1991

Dear Member

We start another season's music making on a high - "A Petworth high". I am sure I am not alone in having received from most unexpected quarters that the audience thoroughly enjoyed the evening, even more than we did, thanks to Neville's excellent guidance and our own "Pavarotti". Who knows, we may be asked again if we are lucky.

Following the hard work needed to prepare for Petworth, I was very happy to see that such a large proportion agreed to continue rehearsals for three more weeks to break the back of Israel in Egypt. This will result in our starting what will be a very packed 1991/92 season with a little less of a rush to prepare for the 9th November.

We then have our Carol Concert on 8th December and Blake's Benedictus on 7th March. This will be a challenge, so try to obtain a tape or record.

The Sea Symphony by Vaughan Williams follows on 2nd May and our choral workshop slips in between these concerts on 8th February at the University. I do hope that more of you will find time to attend this year. It is a wonderful opportunity to improve one's choral understanding and production of sound.

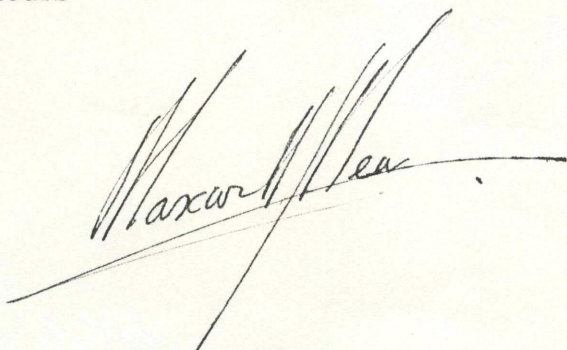
We may also be singing Faure's Requiem for our summer concert as part of the Guildford Festival.

Our 1992/93 season will begin with the return visit of our friends from Freiburg's 'Bachchor' on 31st October 1992 to sing Brahms' Requiem, so it might be a good idea to contact your friends from the last visit for a personal invitation, but if you do, please let me know so that the 'dormy' list can include any such invitations you have agreed. We will go back to Freiburg in 1993 - no final dates are yet fixed, but probably in April to sing Israel in Egypt.

This full programme will need every ounce of effort you can give if we are to keep up our standards. Indeed, we must try to improve them, so regular attendance is vital. I know many of you lead very busy lives, but do make a real effort to attend all, not just the minimum number, of rehearsals so that we can all enjoy our singing without last moment panics.

Have a good break and see you on 2nd September for our first evening.

Yours

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Maxwell New", written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.