

Fleet House
Hookheath Road
Woking
Surrey GU22 0QD

August 1993

Dear Members,

That was a season that was! I hope you enjoyed the season's works as much as I did, not many choirs could look back on such a full and varied series of concerts with such professional support from the orchestra, soloists and conductors, not forgetting Kathy and her team in the office - there is however a danger in being so fortunate - we can become complacent.

At the risk of being unpopular I feel I must raise the matter of support for our concerts from you all as members of the choir.

I know that some of you feel that you chose to become members of the choir to make music not to sell tickets or help raise money. You are busy people, you have other occupations which demand your time, you are "not good at selling things"! Some feel that we already give generously of our precious time in rehearsals and it is for others to do the helping. All these reasons are quite valid but, in the present financial conditions, the choir can't exist on the largesse of the Borough alone if we are to continue to enjoy the standards and pleasure we all want and have been used to.

Surely it is not fair that some people make the effort to support the concerts and others do little or nothing. Please ask yourself - have you played your part in this last season and, if not, offer your help - which can take many forms:-

- . searching out possible sponsors, no matter how small.
- . selling tickets.
- . getting handbills and posters out to the public in your area.
- . helping to set out chairs and clearing up after rehearsals etc.

You could help by serving on The Committee, only one volunteer, Penny Baxter, came forward last AGM. Please remember that at the next AGM in May 1994, not only do I retire as Chairman but at least three of the senior committee members retire as well. This is your chance to bring in new blood who may be able to run the choir more to your liking!

Enough of the lecture, for which I apologise, but it is now up to you.

This season we lost Lynette as our fantastic accompanist, a great loss, but how lucky we were to find Jeremy Filsell who like Lynette makes it all look so confoundedly simple! But what about his accompaniment for the Summer Concert - Rossini. Those of you who were not there have missed hearing a Steinway piano 'sing'. Praises for his performance came from all quarters. What a pity the nave was only half full - enough said!

Our concerts could not have been more varied from Sir Charles' Memorial concert, Mozart's Requiem to Belshazzar's Feast; the Haydn Mass to Brahms' Requiem with the Freiburg Bach Choir.

This year's season will be as varied and as challenging, as it will include:-

Nov 6th and 14th	The War Requiem, Britten in the Guildford Cathedral and in Freiburg.
Dec 5th	Christmas Carols with, we hope, Michael Buerk of TV as presenter.
Feb. 5th	Choral Workshop, Guildford
March 5th	Sancta Civitas - Vaughan Williams.
May 7th	Carmina Burana - with David Willcocks.
July 2nd	Concert of 'Opera Pops' **

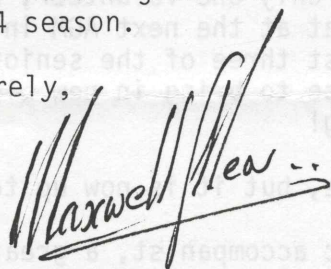
** only if we can have your full support and agreement to sell at least 4 tickets each.

Our season starts with the First Rehearsal on 1st September, Wednesday - due to Bank Holiday. I will, I fear, be in Freiburg having driven there on the previous day. I have been invited to attend their rehearsal and will be clearing up the final arrangements for the "Dormi List" with Cornelia and their Chairman. I will be able to give you all the latest details when I return in time for the rehearsal on 20th September. We will then compile the final lists for those wishing to go and matching it with the available accommodation. In the meantime we have prices for travel by coach which will be an all-in cost of about £70, with air travel in the region of £145.

Enclosed with this letter is an envelope addressed to Jean Radley. Please post your subscription to her so as to ease the last moment rush which she tends to experience on the first night in order to sign you in. It will be a great help.

Until then - have a great summer break and get in good voice for an even greater 1994 season.

Yours sincerely,



Maxwell S New
Chairman - Guildford Philharmonic Choir