



GUILDFORD PHILHARMONIC CHOIR

President: Sir David Willcocks CBE, MC

From the Chairman
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Dear All,

Here we are once again preparing for the start of a new season following on from yet another highly successful programme of concerts. I do not propose to reiterate all that was said at the AGM, but a few items must be taken on board.

Firstly, we must all learn a painful lesson from the Concert in June. All who heard it were inspired by the quality of the performance of a splendid programme, even the Surrey Advertiser Critic, and so it must have been good! It was a pity that the Civic Hall was under half full, which meant that we sustained a thumping great loss. We cannot do this on too many occasions! Given that a concert costs about £10,000 to put on, to break even we have to sell about 750 tickets, which means that each of the 150 members should see it as their duty to be responsible for the income from 5 tickets, to ensure the healthy financial future of the choir. It is a hard fact of musical life today, but one that we ignore at our peril.

Secondly, the position of chairman which produced much debate at the AGM. I am only allowed to hold the post for 5 years - I am now starting my 7th. The Choir is looking for someone to take over as chairman next June; if you are interested please give me a ring and we will co-opt you on to the committee as it is essential that the new Chairman works with the committee before taking over.

Susan Ranft has recently resigned from the committee, as she will be soon moving to France. Susan has been a very valuable member of the committee taking responsibility for publicity and the Friends and Patrons scheme. The work that she has done, since we became responsible for our own destiny, has made an enormous contribution to our success and to the professional profile that we have exhibited. Any volunteers to take over this vital role, please telephone me. Thank you Susan very much for all your hard work and support, we wish you and Peter all the best.

We have a very exciting programme to fulfil next season, and I hope that we shall all take on board Jeremy's call for 100% commitment. For those who are not singing at Crystal Palace, have a good summer and I look forward to seeing you at the first rehearsal.

With best wishes,

John

For those singing in the Crystal Palace Concert, Sunday 20th August at 7.30pm

This is one of six concerts in the "Proms at the Palace" series and will be introduced by Henry Kelly. We want to put on a good show **and we could do with some more singers, especially sopranos.** If you can come now after not being able to commit yourself earlier, please phone John after 12th August - there is still space on the coaches at the time of writing. The coach will be no more than £6, to pay on the day.

Meet at Guildford Park Avenue coach Park at 1.15pm for a 1.30pm departure

Arrive Crystal Palace 3.00pm for a choir rehearsal with JB

Orchestra/choir rehearsal at 4.00pm

Dress: Ladies all black and men DJ's - remember it can get very cold - wear skiing underwear!!!

Bring black folders, music, picnic and drinks etc. as we will be in the audience for the first half.

Box Office: Churchill Theatre 020 8313 0527 Fairfield Halls 020 8688 9291

If you are making your own way there you might need a pass so please let John know after 12th August.