



GUILDFORD PHILHARMONIC CHOIR

President: Sir David Willcocks CBE, MC

From the Chairman
John Trigg
13 Vicarage Gate
Onslow Village
Guildford
Surrey
GU2 7QJ

Telephone: 01483 566341

August 2002

Dear All,

I hope you are well, had a good summer and are looking forward to another exciting season with the GPC. The date of our first rehearsal has been changed from that announced at the AGM to **Monday 9th September**.

As you can see from the rehearsal schedule we are looking forward to a very exciting season. We shall be visiting our friends in the Freiburg Bachchor in Germany to perform the Dvorak Requiem after we have performed it in Guildford in October. If you heard the electrifying performance of the Mahler 8 at this years Proms you will realise what a treat is in store for Guildford next May!

In our first concert, not only are we performing the Dvorak Requiem with the Brandenburg Sinfonia and excellent, well-known soloists, but Chloe Hanslip will be also playing the Bruch Violin Concerto. Chloe is a local girl and only 14, but is rapidly rising to stardom. She will be releasing her latest CD at the time of our concert. Given Chloe's popularity, we thought that this would help to sell the concert.

Without wishing to repeat everything that I said at the AGM, one very important point must be reiterated. For the past two years, in spite of first class performances, our audiences are decreasing in number, and what is of more concern, there is a downward trend. The consequence of this is on the one hand we perform to a half full cathedral, which is not satisfactory considering the quality of our concerts and the artists and orchestras that we employ; and on the other hand, it does not increase the reserves that we have in the bank. Whilst our reserves are quite healthy, it must be remembered that when we were separated from the Borough organisation 5 years ago, we had nothing. The membership worked extremely hard to take every opportunity to advertise and promote the Choir so that we could quickly achieve a financial reserve that would allow us put on concerts as good as, if not better and definitely more adventurous, than those that we had participated in previously.

It is therefore beholden on every member to actively work towards doing their bit in ensuring that all concerts are a sell out. This can be done by advertising in your locality and at work, posting leaflets to friends, acquaintances or to anyone who you think might possibly be interested; also by persuading as many people as possible that they will have a great night out at our concerts. No excuses please, we are all busy with demanding jobs, the choir is not there for your relaxation alone, and it does require commitment from everyone.

I look forward to seeing you at our first rehearsal, remember, **Monday 9th September** not 2nd September as announced previously.

With best wishes

John