

Fleet House
Hookheath Road
Woking
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August 1992

Dear Members

We are about to start our new season of music making, a season which will differ in many ways from previous years.

We have lost Sir Charles, a serious blow to us all, he was much loved by us for his ability to be firm and, at times, critical, but in a way we all respected because we knew that he was always right and that when he was pleased with our efforts he really meant it.

Our second loss is, of course, Lynette. We will always owe her a great debt of gratitude for making our rehearsals just that much more fun and easier because we could all hear our own notes as though she was playing our part even if the music was for 2 choirs with 8 or more parts.

Neville has recommended Jeremy Filsell as our new accompanist and I am sure we will make him very welcome.

The current economic state of the world generally and in U.K. particularly, has forced your Committee to make some difficult decisions relating to the coming season. The Borough is unable to increase our grant to keep pace with our growing expenses. As I said at the AGM you have agreed to extend the rehearsal season and to add our own summer concert, this year to be "Opera Hits" as part of the Guildford Festival on 3 July 1993. This means extra costs which we have no right to expect the Borough to finance, even if it could.

We must make up the short fall by sales, bring and buy, 100 club, sales of sweatshirts etc., These call for considerable effort on the part of those that give of their time to organise them but even with your support, and I fear there are some, sadly, who do not support these efforts; these can't produce the full finance we need to cover our outgoings. We must therefore increase our subscription this year to £50. Before you shout out in pain, just consider what you get - 46 weeks of rehearsals, concerts, choral workshop; not to mention the pleasure and satisfaction of singing with a very fine orchestra. Those of you who attend evening classes in bridge, music appreciation, Spanish or similar will know that £50. is not anywhere near as high a charge as is made for these other evening classes. It also only equates to a pint of beer per week that many of us take, for medicinal reasons of course, after rehearsals are over. Please also remember that we do try to offer reduced rates for students and certain other classifications so do speak to Jean if you think you may qualify.

Sent to Jean R 23/8/92

This season we have a challenging programme of works which should give us many hours of enjoyable rehearsals and performances - starting with welcoming our friends from Freiburg for the Brahms Requiem under Michael Beuerle for the weekend of 28 October-1 November. I still need a few more offers of accommodation if you can help.

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We then have the **Choral Workshop** on **30 January**
Walton's Belshazzar's Feast on **6 March**
Haydn's Paukenmesse on the **25 April**
and, finally **the Opera hits** on **3 July**.

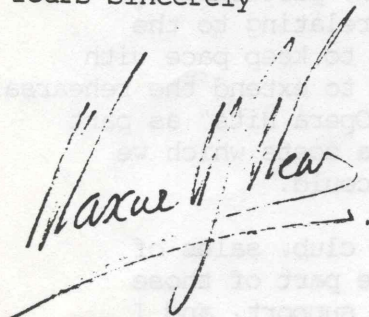
Quite a full programme which will call for considerable efforts from us all if we are to reach a high standard worthy of our Orchestra, therefore regular attendance at rehearsals is a must. I know you will try to give them your top priority.

Our first rehearsal will be on **2 September** due to the bank holiday; do try to make it. We will have our last chance to say farewell to Lynette, who will be standing in for Jeremy Filsell on that evening.

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.

We will give you all the details of the Bachchor visit to us and our visit to Freiburg in November '93 to sing the "War Requiem" when we meet again in September. Until then, have a great holiday break if you haven't already had yours. I look forward to seeing you again.

Yours sincerely



Maxwell S New
CHAIRMAN
GUILDFORD PHILHARMONIC CHOIR