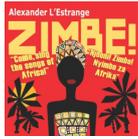
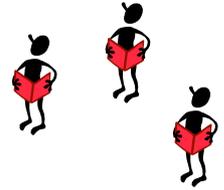




Chelmsford Singers Newsletter July 2014



Comments from our MD

The performance of *Zimbe!* on June 14 was a superb evening of enthusiastic and vibrant music-making. The huge amount of work that had been put in to rehearsals really paid off, as did the homework that people had clearly been putting in. The movement coaching and obvious enjoyment of the choir in rehearsal impressed both Alexander and Joanna, and it was so good to see the young singers at the front getting stuck into the music with verve and spontaneous energy. The band's accompaniment and stunning second-half jazz recital added so much to the evening, and there was a palpable sense of excitement around the whole evening. Thank you to you all for being willing to put aside reservations and embrace a very different kind of work with such enthusiasm; I know that it has won several people around, and successful concerts only follow thorough and committed work all round - huge thanks indeed!

James Davy

June 2014 Concert review from Tony Tuckwell *Zimbe!*

Under James Davy's compelling direction, Chelmsford Cathedral swayed and clapped along to Alexander L'Estrange's *Zimbe*, a vibrant sequence of African and gospel songs, charting a day in the life of an African village. The Chelmsford Singers adapted seamlessly to the mesmerising rhythms. The children of Our Lady Immaculate and The Cathedral Primary schools delivered exquisitely pure playground songs from Ghana and Zimbabwe. The women sang a poignant Xhosa lullaby for apartheid victims. A rousing drinking song with amazing drum riff from Adam Riley of the Call me Al Quintet, Alexander L'Estrange's own top jazz combo, was juxtaposed to a tear-jerking hymn-like Zulu funeral song. And the pulsating Swahili *Njooni!* *Zimbe!* for full ensemble bookended the performance with sensational trumpet playing from Mark Armstrong. The second half featured the Quintet with Joanna Forbes L'Estrange, former Swingles Singer, performing two virtuosic Bach jazz numbers, some beautiful Alexander L'Estrange and Michel Legrand ballads, and the hilarious *Alto's Lament*. What a wonderfully joyous evening!

Tony Tuckwell

Comment from a "Friend"

I too thoroughly enjoyed the evening – it was as surprising as wonderful. James Davy certainly got us all (well most anyway) in swinging mood. I loved the singing of the soprano soloist and the quintet too. The whole was very pleasing. Thank you everyone.

Chelmsford Singers' Programme (2014/15)

Sat 15 th Nov 2014 7pm	Sat 20 th Dec 2014 – venue St John the Baptist, Danbury	Sat 28 th March 2015	Sat 27 th June 2015
Vespero della Beata Vergine by Claudio Monteverdi	Christmas music with readings and audience participation 	Annelies by James Whitbourn Based on the diaries of Anne Frank	Music for a Summer's Evening Madrigals & Part songs to include John Rutter's Birthday Madrigals & The Sprig of Thyme

Sat 19 th Dec 2015
Merrily on High Christmas Music 

Rehearsal schedule (July – Dec 2014)

Date	Notes
Tues 8 th July	At Galleywood Infant school 7.30 – 9.30
Tues 15 th July	Following rehearsals at Cathedral Primary school (unless stated)
Tues 9 th Sept	open rehearsal + social
Tues 16 th Sept	
Tues 23 rd Sept	
Tues 30 th Sept	
Tues 7 th Oct	
Tues 14 th Oct	Rehearsal plus AGM starting at 9pm
Tues 21 st Oct	
Tues 28 th Oct	Half term – no rehearsal
Tues 4 th Nov	
Tues 11 th Nov	
Fri 14 th Nov	6.30 -8.30 in the cathedral
Sat 15th Nov	Concert rehearsal 2 pm tbc. Concert 7pm
Tues 18 th Nov	
Tues 25 th Nov	
Tues 2 nd Dec	
Tues 9 th Dec	
Tues 16 th Dec	
Sat 20th Dec	Concert rehearsal 2pm tbc



Monteverdi Concert Preparations

This is going to be an exciting venture for the choir and one that we would probably not be able to perform or afford on our own. We will be singing with the Choirs of the Chelmsford Cathedral and accompanied by Canzona Baroque Ensemble who accompanied the splendid performance of Messiah in December 2013. The piece, most commonly known today as Monteverdi's *1610 Vespers*, is in every respect one of the towering masterpieces of the Baroque era and we are delighted to have the opportunity of performing it as part of the Chelmsford Cathedral Centenary Celebrations.

Scores Music will be provided but I know that some people like to buy their own copies. We are using the Kings Music edition, edited by Clifford Bartlett, in the Red version. It's quite important for people to get the correct colour, as there are three versions, with movements in different keys. The scores are available at www.boosey.com at about £25.



CDs This is the recording that James recommends we listen to:-

MONTEVERDI Vespro della Beata Virgine, 1610 Gabrieli Consort & Players /Paul McCreesh. DG Duo 2cds

Liz at Colchester Classics can offer us these CDs for £11 but she can't get them on sale or return so will need orders please. I should be able to get them for the July rehearsals. Please let me know as soon as possible if you would like one.

Friday rehearsal Note from James - There's a rehearsal in the Cathedral on Friday 14 November with the choir men 6.30-8.30. I appreciate that not all of the singers will be able to make it for the beginning of a rehearsal at that time, but I'm keen not to go on too late the night before the concert, but do as much as is possible to get ahead.

AGM

The CS AGM will be on Tues 14th Oct when our normal rehearsal will end a bit early in order to start the AGM at 9pm. We should still be finished by 9.30pm. I am pleased to tell you that (in keeping with many years of tradition) the new dean, The Very Reverend Nicholas Henshall, has agreed to be our new President and is coming to the AGM.



Choir tour to Dordrecht

The Dordrecht tour was a great success. Many congratulations to the working group Richard Till, Prue Jones, Karen Brown and Sue Lowden who did most of the hard work. Thank you to James for the inspired programme and for his leadership and to Laurence for his brilliant accompanying and to both for their solo recitals. I think we are all looking forward to the next CS tour! (Looks as though we will be hearing a bit more of the Dutch national anthem in the next couple of days!)

CS Fundraising and Social events

This year we held a very successful Quiz Night in January – thank you Martin Burchett (tenor); an excellent Singing Workshop in March with Debbie Miles Johnson; and a brilliant Supper Evening on 1st July – many thanks to Prue Jones (sop) and Robert for allowing us to use their home and delightful garden for this and to the team (Richard Till, Karen Brown, Prue and me) who cooked the delicious food. We were very pleased that our new President and his wife (Christine) were able to come to this event. Thank you every one who supported these events.

We are busy planning future events including a wine tasting session, another quiz night and possibly a Choir Dinner! Watch this space!

If anyone has any suggestions for other fundraising events – we would be delighted to hear about them.

Other dates for your diaries

In Chelmsford Cathedral:-

Monday 3 November at 7.45 pm *Solemn Eucharist for All Souls* - Requiem Mass - Duruflé Sung by the Cathedral Choir

The Cathedral music diary can be down loaded: -

<http://www.chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk/uploads/images/music/2014-musicdiary5-2.pdf>



From Lucy Bubb:-

On Remembrance Sunday afternoon, the Royal Choral Society with whom I also sing, are performing Britten's War Requiem at the Royal Albert Hall to mark the centenary of the First World War. All proceeds are going to Veterans Aid so it really is worth coming! If you need more persuasion, the soloists are Bryn Terfel, Stephen Rugamer, and Ekaterina Scherbachenko. Tickets can be purchased directly from the Royal Albert Hall and the flyer below gives more detail.



New website and Face Book Page

Richard Till has been working really hard and is putting together a new website for us! It can be found at www.chelmsfordsingers.co.uk and www.chelmsfordsingers.org.uk

The FB page is www.facebook.com/chelmsfordsingers and the Twitter account (managed by James) is @chelmsingers

We now have an info@chelmsfordsingers.co.uk that automatically forwards to me and a friends@chelmsfordsingers.co.uk that forwards to Val Hoines (Friends' Secretary).

Richard says:-

Please could people who use FB 'Like' the page, so that any posts will be sent to their walls for their friends to see. New posts on the website are automatically shared with the Facebook page, so if people 'share' any Facebook posts from the Singers page, it massively increases how many people see not only the Facebook page but also the website.

According to Facebook, 800 different people have seen our posts already!

Thank you

To every one who helped with the concert in June! Thank you to those who sold tickets, who sold programmes, who showed people to their seats, who served the refreshments, who washed up and who cleared away afterwards. We could not possibly do a concert without lots of “willing helpers”. Special thanks to Katie Miller (sop) who trained the Cathedral school choir (and to David Smith’s (bass) wife, Danielle, who trained the choir from OLI), the children did really well!

Congratulations to James for another very successful year and for coping so calmly with Zimbe! when he was so involved in concerts at Snape on the day before and the day afterwards and with so much going on in his day job lately!

Thank you to Laurence for his brilliant work as our rehearsal accompanist, we really missed you this term!! Many thanks to all the committee for their hard work and particularly to Sue Lowden for her excellent work as treasurer.



Sad note

Bob and Anna Wood have decided to hang up their scores and will not be returning to sing with us in September. They have been a valued part of the choir for many years and we will miss them greatly. Thank you both for everything you have done for the group, for your support and friendship.

Committee members

James Davy – Musical Director

Sue Lowden – Treasurer

Martin Burchett – Secretary

Stephanie Valentine – Membership Sec

Jean Cooper – Librarian

Val Hoines – Friends' Sec



Karen Brown – Ladies’ rep 01621828747

Royston van Tromp – Men’s rep 01245261448

Richard Till

Richard Hickman

Alison Widgery - Chairman

Our next committee meeting is on Mon 15th September 2014. If you have anything you would like us to consider or if you would like to join the committee please contact any committee member.

Best wishes,

Alison

Chelmsford Singers Chairman
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