

Sarisbury Choral Society

NEWSLETTER

THURSDAY 2nd APRIL 2020

Welcome to this Thursday's ramblings from the conductor! I thought I might experiment with putting it in a newsletter format rather than a long worded email. Comments, improvements, suggestions welcome!

Online singing opportunities

I hope that some of you have been able to enjoy the great singing opportunities to sing together online during this unusual time. I do encourage you to make use of some or all of them if you can!

I have been notified of a great initiative which is being organised by choral conductor Hilary Campbell. This coming Saturday afternoon (April 4th) she's hosting a "stay and sing" as opposed to a "come and sing" of Mozart's wonderful Coronation Mass. The event is running from 2pm to 4pm and is free (donations welcome). All you need to do is sign up here:

<https://www.hilarycampbell.com/stay-and-sing>

Personally, I'm very interested to see how she manages to do it online!

Singing regularly

If you're not able to join in with the online opportunities mentioned, you can keep on singing just by doing warm up exercises! Last Thursday I sent you a link to a YouTube video by Roger Hale with some really useful material. A further video is available here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8-gcnRZYxx4>

I particularly recommend the tuning exercises, they're very clever!

Some of you will have heard of the vocal group Voces8 who, in collaboration with vocal group Apollo 5, are uploading a daily video on a variety of singing subjects.

Tuesday's video was a warm up

session led by two of the members of Voces8 and is worth a look:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BCMK66TZXAA>

I should point out that this video is a very "active" one, but with really useful information!

Quiz answers

Last week I invited you to have a go at the composer or pasta quiz! Here are the answers. If you get more than ten right, then your knowledge of Italian composers and pastas is outstanding!

1. **Bazzini** was a **composer** (*born in 1818 and died in 1897*)
2. **Boucheron** was a **composer** (*born in 1800 and died in 1876*)
3. **Bucanti** is a **pasta**
4. **Buzzolla** was a **composer** (*born in 1815 and died in 1871*)
5. **Cagnoni** was a **composer** (*born in 1828 and died in 1896*)
6. **Capellini** is a **pasta**
7. **Coccia** was a **composer** (*born in 1759 and died in 1833*)
8. **Filini** is a **pasta**
9. **Nini** was a **composer** (*born in 1805 and died in 1880*)
10. **Pedrotti** was a **composer** (*born in 1817 and died in 1893*)
11. **Ricci** was a **composer** (*born in 1805 and died in 1859*)
12. **Sorprese** is a **pasta**
13. **Testaroli** is a **pasta**
14. **Tuffoli** is a **pasta**
15. **Zitoni** is a **pasta**

Messa per Rossini

I would like to introduce you to this very unique setting of the Requiem which was composed to commemorate the first anniversary of Rossini's death.

This work was a collaboration between 13 Italian composers and was initiated by Verdi, who proposed the idea four days after the death of Rossini. Of the 13 composers, Verdi is by far the best known today. Eight of the other composers were answers in the "composer or pasta" quiz. I'll leave you to look up the names of the remaining four!

In a letter to his publisher at Ricordi, Verdi states that the manuscripts should be sealed in the Rossini musical archives.

The first performance was scheduled for 13th November 1869 at the Basilica of San Petronio, Bologna, but for various reasons, the performance was cancelled. One of the reasons was that there was a bit of a row over who would conduct the premiere... but I'm pleased to say that the concert wasn't cancelled due to the coronavirus outbreak.

The manuscript was rediscovered in 1970 and premiered in 1988 at the European Music Festival in Stuttgart. The first performance in the UK was given in 2003 at the Royal Academy of Music.

On 9th December 2017, after 148 years and a month, the Requiem was finally performed in the Basilica of San Petronio in Bologna, the place that Verdi originally had in mind for the work.

A complete performance of the Requiem Mass is performed here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=abuGfQJ6iDs>

If you don't want to listen to the full two hours, it's well worth comparing

the Dies Irae (which starts 11 minutes in) with the one from the Requiem by Verdi (listen out also for shades of Mozart's Requiem). I would especially encourage you to have a listen to the final movement (the Libera me), which is basically the original version of the same Libera me in Verdi's Requiem (the movement starts at about 1 hour 35 minutes into the video).

And finally!

With Easter just around the corner (next Sunday), I thought you might like to have a bit of an Easter challenge!

I have put together a mp3 recording of the accompaniment of the Hallelujah chorus (attached with this email) and I thought you would enjoy singing along to it. I also thought it would be good to get you to record yourselves so I can put a recording together of all your voices singing the piece.

So, if you are able, I would love you to send me an audio recording (just the sound, so no video) of you singing your part! You can do this by recording yourself using your mobile phone or other device, it doesn't have to be a fancy recording. You can record yourselves as a duet if you live together, or you could record yourself singing more than one part!

The only rule I would ask is, as far as possible, to please record yourselves using headphones so I only get your voices on the recording rather than the backing track.

Ideally, I'd quite like to have the finished article as close to Easter Day as possible, so if you can get your recordings in by next Thursday then that would be good!

Please send your submitted recordings to graydkidd@gmail.com please note that this is a new email address for the purpose of receiving new recordings!!

Best of luck and have a good week! Stay safe, *Graham*