



Musical Director - Chris Gray

For choir members who braved the snow to attend our first rehearsals of term, the reward was Monteverdi's exquisite music for Vespers published four centuries ago this year. This is challenging music, much of it in eight (and occasionally ten) parts and could not be more different from the Verdi *Requiem* which occupied us for much of last term.

As well as the attraction of hearing the Vespers in its anniversary year, there is the draw of hearing our fabulous team of seven soloists, including sopranos Sophie Bevan and Natalie Clifton-Griffith, tenor Nicholas Hawker and bass Darren Jeffery. We will be joined by one of the top period instrument groups in the UK, Charivari Agréable whose cornetts, sackbuts, chiterones and early strings have to be seen and heard to be believed – they capture something of the very essence of the 1600s.

The Vespers is a fascinating piece to study. There are question marks over almost every aspect of its history, including why it was composed, where it could possibly have been performed and what Monteverdi's motive was in publishing it. Some of these issues have resulted in the most heated exchanges in musicology between eminent scholars of different views. Russell Pascoe and I will take a 21st century look at what the current thinking is at our workshop on Saturday 6 February. There will be an opportunity, for those who wish, to sing some of the more manageable sections of the Vespers and to work with Annabella Waite on voice production and with Anne Turner on the Alexander Technique. I do hope you will join us for a morning which will, I hope, enhance everyone's enjoyment of this great work when we perform it in March.

Chairman - Priscilla Reeve

Plans are exciting for the rest of this choir year and for the next one. Where do you go after a Verdi *Requiem* that brought to many a singer and listener an experience of spiritual atmospherics as well a demonstration of academic excellence?

Monteverdi's *Vespers* is where you go: another opportunity for showing off our expertise, as this is a difficult work to master. The joys of performing it can last all your life and each time you return to it, fresh aspects leap out of the intricate pages of figuring.

I had a first taste of this work aged twelve under Peter Maxwell Davies, our head of music. He arranged it for the school orchestra and choir and I played the chamber organ continuo at the first performance and sang alto after that. So for those struggling to learn it, I assure you it will become precious, depending on how much work you put in now. I am so looking forward to the workshop on 6 February. The wisdom of Chris Gray and Russell Pascoe in combination with voice development and performance tuition from the also wise and vastly experienced Annabella Waite and Anne Turner is an absolute snip at £10. We welcome all our musical friends.

WHY DO WE NEED NEW SPONSORS?



DID YOU KNOW that to put on a typical concert in the Cathedral costs over **£10,000** and that concert could run up a deficit of several thousand pounds?

SO HOW DO WE SURVIVE?

Apart from ticket sales, we rely on three sources of income:

- Your subscriptions and donations
- Fundraising activities (weekly wine raffle, workshops, Benallack concerts)
- **SPONSORS**

WHAT MAKES A SPONSOR? Sponsors are mainly, but not exclusively, businesses. For a minimum annual contribution of £100, they first benefit from knowing that they are supporting one of Cornwall's leading performing arts groups.

They also get publicity in our concert programmes and (for those contributing £250 or more) two or more free front seats for our concerts. Their contributions are tax-deductible.

WHO ARE OUR SPONSORS? Two years ago, our sponsors included a hotel in Falmouth, a local ferry company, two building companies and a holiday letting company.

At the beginning of 2010, we have only one sponsor – not a company but a particularly generous couple who have valiantly continued to support us into the current economic downturn. It's time we tried again to attract new sponsors.

CAN YOU HELP? You already help through your annual subscription – thank you again! - but now that you know just how much we need our sponsors:

Can you think of a music-loving friend or family member who is in business (or just wealthy!) and might enjoy the satisfaction of supporting such a good cause, as well as guaranteed front-row seats for future concerts?

Have you noticed local business people in our concert audiences?

Do you have any other ideas of individuals, small businesses or indeed major companies that we might approach about becoming sponsors?

Please let me – David Smith – know by phone - 01872 27893, by e-mail - d.g.smith@talktalk.net - or by having a word with me at the next rehearsal.

OTHER WAYS YOU CAN HELP

Additional revenue comes from ADVERTISING – those business friends of yours might also consider *advertising* in our concert programmes (another very useful source of revenue). Details (in leaflet form) are available from me if you can think of anyone to approach.

If you are a regular computer user, you can help to raise funds in two more ways:

- Instead of using Google, switch to **www.everyclick.com** for your **INTERNET SEARCHES!** Every click you make raises a small amount for charity and you can choose the charity that will benefit from your searches. **Please choose Three Spires Singers!** – e-mail me for help if you can't work out how – and you will be adding a few pence a day to our funds – nearly £120 has been raised so far and that's by fewer than 20 of us. Do please join us!
- Instead of shopping direct with Amazon, eBay, M&S and other internet retailers, try using our **WEBSHOP: www.buy.at/threespiressingers** – and every purchase you make sends a small commission in our direction. Buying your insurance this way is particularly valuable – commission of £40 is possible on a single policy! We earned £127 through Buy.At last year. Give it a try! More on this by e-mail from time to time.

**If you have any experience of fund-raising or marketing,
I'd be delighted to hear from you**

by phone 01872 278930, by e-mail d.g.smith@talktalk.net
or by having a word with me at the next rehearsal.

Rehearsal and Concert Dates

6 February 2010	Monteverdi Workshop Truro School
20 March 2010	Monteverdi Vespers Truro Cathedral Rehearsal 2-5pm
Monday 22 March 2010 Additional Choir Rehearsal	
12 June 2010	Scarlatti <i>St Cecilia Mass</i> Pergolesi <i>Magnificat</i> St Endellion
21 June 2010	Party –venue & format TBC
6 Sept 2010	AGM

Future concerts and events

16 October 10	Haydn <i>Insanae et Vanae Cura</i> Mozart <i>Mass in C Minor</i> Beethoven <i>Piano Concerto No 4</i> Soloist: Paul Comeau Truro Cathedral
11 December 10	Handel <i>Messiah</i> Truro Cathedral
5 March 2011	Elgar <i>Dream of Gerontius Workshop</i> Nick Hawker Truro School - TBC
2 April 2011	Elgar <i>Dream of Gerontius</i> Truro Cathedral
11 June 2011	Summer Concert Truro Cathedral - TBC

Patrons & Friends - Anne Drew

Our carol concert on 5 December 2009 at All Saints Church, Falmouth was a great success. Despite the appalling weather, the church was almost full but there was a disappointing turnout from our Patrons and Friends. You obviously prefer the concerts in the Cathedral, which you support so well. Luke Bond gave a stunning performance on the magnificent organ and we managed to give £600 to the Music Therapy Trust from the retiring collection. It was great having Petroc Trelawny, our new President, as our MC.

The tickets for the Monteverdi *Vespers* on 20 March 2010 are selling steadily. Rehearsals are progressing well - we are finding it a challenging work and an enjoyable experience. There are still a few £20 seats available, so please contact me as soon as possible if you require them. Otherwise, there are plenty of seats available in the lower price ranges.

Please circulate the enclosed posters in the usual way so that the general public are made aware of the concert on 20 March.

A very happy new year to you all.

Matters Financial - Sheelagh Jenkins

We were delighted to have such a large audience at our performance of Verdi's *Requiem* in November - my estimate is that there were 642 people at this concert. This resulted in higher than anticipated ticket revenue and this, combined with careful control of other costs, resulted in a much smaller deficit than had been forecast: a deficit of £3,830 on costs of over £13,000.

Our Christmas concert in Falmouth was a much smaller undertaking financially. There were about 180 in the audience, which was especially pleasing given the dreadful weather! The concert has made a small deficit of about £150. At this concert we took a retiring collection on behalf of the Cornwall Music Therapy Trust and I am delighted to report that, thanks to the generosity of both audience and choir members, I was able to send a cheque for £600 to the Trust as a result.

Our 'Come & Sing' day on 16 January 2010, although not as well attended as in other years, has still raised some funds for the choir.

We are extremely grateful for the ongoing support of our sponsors, Mr & Mrs Maberly. Thanks also to all our Friends and Patrons who so generously continue to support our concerts. We are always delighted to welcome new

Sponsors, Friends and Patrons, to ensure that we can continue to offer such exciting programmes.