

Registered Charity no. 518073

Music Director - Darius Battiwalla Patron - Sam West

ANNUAL REPORT 2015

**1 CHAIRMAN’S REPORT**

As this is my final contribution, as Chairman of the Chorus, to the Annual Report, it seems an appropriate time to glance back over the past decade as well as looking forward to the future.

Some landmarks and highlights epitomise, for me, the scope and continuing development of the Chorus’s work over the past ten years or so:

**2008** Proms performance, for some members of the Chorus along with the CBSO Chorus, of Beethoven’s 9th Symphony

**2009** BBC Radio 2’s Brass and Voices on Christmas Eve, featuring the Chorus and based on part of that year’s City Hall Christmas Concert

**2010** The Star Wars Live tour. Filming/screening of BBC1’s Songs of Praise from Sheffield with carols provided by the Chorus

**2011** Celebration of our 75th birthday with, among other special guests, the Lord Mayor of Sheffield and her Consort

**2012** a vintage year:

* Launch of our Singclude project by BBC’s Peter White – our portable stair-climber makes the Chorus significantly more accessible and inclusive
* The Alight Festival as part of the Music Nation Cultural Olympiad: led by the Chorus this was the largest and most diverse event in the region – so said our BBC Producer.
* The Olympic Torch Relay – I wouldn't have been involved but for a nomination from a Chorus member, Kate Reece, who also took the role of my “Chaperone”; I shall never forget the Chorus’s rendition of “You’ll Never Walk Alone” as Kate and I took the Olympic flame through Parson Cross, or the picnic afterwards in Hillsborough Park.
* Promotion by the Chorus of a "contemporary" concert of music by Karl Jenkins (The Armed Man) and Philip Wilby (Bronté Mass) – a major coup since a whole concert of “contemporary” repertoire can be very difficult to sell; it was a great honour to have Philip Wilby in our audience.
* Bringing Sir Arthur Bliss's cantata The Beatitudes "home" to Coventry Cathedral – its first performance in the venue for which it was written, followed by its broadcast.
* 2013 An unforgetable City Hall performance of Britten’s War Requiem to mark the culmination of the centenary of Britten’s birth.

Some ongoing features of Chorus life also demonstrate that we are not a choir which stands still!:

* Regular appearances on BBC Radio 3
* Regular appearances on BBC Radio Sheffield on Christmas Eve
* Development of our website and social media
* Strong and positive relationships with Sheffield International Venues and the Hallé
* Strong and ongoing support for and links with local and national charities – Heart Research UK, St Luke’s Hospice, Sheffield Royal Society for the Blind and Cancer Research UK; and, mainly through the annual “Tickhill Carols” – Marie Curie Cancer Care, Alzheimers Society, Leukaemia Research and Lost Chord, to name just a few.
* Establishment of a firm link with Sheffield Museums Service, who now regularly invite members of the Chorus to sing at their venues and as part of their events
* Regular promotion of our own concerts, which have helped officers of the Chorus to learn and build capacity in terms of negotiating professional contracts, setting budgets, and adopting a professional and more strategic approach to marketing;
* Regular involvement in commercial recordings
* Regularly commissioning new works and arrangements - O Holy Night in memory of Miriam Gilchrist, two world premiers for the Alight Festival – Everyone Sang by Chorus member Yaron Hollander, and Olympic Triptych by Timothy Allen; and So Sing by Max Taylor in memory of our long-standing Chorus member George Swindels.
* Regular collaborations with other choirs including two exchange tours with the Bochum Philharmonic Chorus and the wonderful international Sing: Day of Song involving over 50,000 singers in the Schalke football stadium
* Establishment of “open” rehearsals to welcome visitors to try out singing with the Chorus prior to auditioning; this has resulted in the crucially important new role of New Members’ Officer, and the Section Reps, who play a huge part in encouraging visitors to become members, and new members to feel welcome.
* Following a Strategic Review of our outreach and recruitment efforts, regular runs of workshops to help potential and present members with music-reading and “chorus craft” – also crucial for ongoing recruitment
* The establishment, albeit quite slowly, of the network of Friends of the Chorus, as part of the securing of our financial future

Altogether the Chorus we have in 2015 is, in a number of aspects, a different organisation from that which I started to lead in October 2005. Yet, in many positive ways, nothing has changed: we are still a close community of musicians who are passionate about singing at the highest possible standard we can; we continue to be wonderfully supported by our paid professionals, Nigel, Maggie and Darius; and we continue to enjoy very positive relationships with our various partners - staff at the City Hall, The Hallé, BBC, King Edward vii School, and others. We continue to have a strong reputation in Sheffield and the wider region, and further afield with the orchestras, choirs and other musical professionals with whom we join to make wonderful music – what a privilege!

Looking to the future, the Chorus continues to be involved in both pioneering and established activities, reflecting its appetite for a positive blend of innovation and tradition. As I write, the developments I have seen over the past decade are typified by current work and plans:

* The promotion and sale of our latest CD, Awake, Arise, which will raise our profile and hopefully give much pleasure to our listeners;
* Prominent Chorus involvement in The first Classical Sheffield Festival, aimed at building new audiences, and the profile of classical music in Sheffield in the future
* Commissioning of Darius for a new arrangement of “local” While Shepherds settings for the 2015 Christmas Concerts
* The next run of music-reading workshops for potential male members
* “Voicing” of the Chorus with a view to improving its sound and providing an even more enjoyable singing experience for members
* The first After Hours concert, of Scandinavian choral repertoire on 20 February, in the Sheffield International Concerts Season – a risky innovation but who better than SPC to take on the challenge?
* A welcome return to our “traditional” repertoire in the shape of Haydn’s Nelson Mass on 6 May 2016, with the Hallé and our great friend and colleague, Jamie Burton conducting
* Our 80th Birthday celebrations focusing on our self-promoted concert on 4 June 2016, which will also be my 60th Birthday celebration
* Becoming a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) to secure excellent

governance and regulation for the Chorus, particularly with regard to its financial

commitments as it continues to promote ambitious and creative performance

* A proposed update of our website and strengthening of our social media presence.

In conclusion, it has been the most enormous privilege and pleasure to chair the Chorus for the past ten years. I feel I have been part of a distinguished line of leaders – Bill Smylie, Rachel Copley and Keith Alford, all of whom brought their own unique expertise, experience and vision to the role; I do hope I have built on this and that my successor as Chairman (or Chair if they prefer!) will enjoy adding their own “something” to the role. I would like to thank loads of people who have helped and supported me over the years, especially Darius and the various Officers and Committee members, and also those who don’t have a specific “title” but who nonetheless tirelessly support the Chorus with their time, skills and abilities. I have had a wonderful time representing the Chorus, in all sorts of places and situations, and seeing it grow and develop over the past decade or so. May it long continue to be true to its title – the friendly community of singers in Sheffield who “love harmony”, in its best and widest sense!

**Julie Smethurst Chair** October 2015

**2 ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT**

The 2014-15 Season has been a very interesting and exciting one.

In November we were joined by the Royal Northern Sinfonia to perform Mozart’s Great C Minor Mass under the inspiring direction of James Burton. There was a lot to learn but it certainly was worth the effort and produced an uplifting performance.

By now we have become accustomed to two helpings of our City Hall Carol Concert and on the afternoon and evening of 13 December, along with the Black Dyke Band, we launched Christmas for a very appreciative audience. We had our excellent Darius on the podium, and Paulette Edwards of BBC Radio Sheffield proved to be a popular and entertaining choice to present the concert.

In addition to the City Hall carols we were kept busy with other carol singing events. On two occasions commuters at the Sheffield train station were greeted with vigorous renditions as well as more reflective carols. This has become a regular feature of our calendar and the money raised is for the charity ‘Heart Research UK’, which is very grateful for our support. Another regular event is our participation in the St. Luke’s Christmas Carol Service in the Anglican Cathedral. With many of our Members having personal connections with St. Luke’s Hospice. participation is very important to them. Sadly, owing to the death of Rachel Copley’s husband, Brian, our annual Carol Concert at Tickhill Parish Church had to be cancelled. Rachel has, however, agreed that it should resume this year and we are grateful for her enthusiasm and energy to pick up her baton again. The concert will take place on Thursday 17 December 2015.

No sooner had the rest of the world put its Christmas away until next year than we were again in the City Hall singing yet more Christmas Carols! This time we were making a recording of carols for a CD to be formally released on 20 November 2015.  We are most grateful for the support of the Black Dyke Band which gave its services and assistance with marketing at a most generous rate.  The CD is a showcase for many superb, and indeed some witty, arrangements of carols by Darius and we are proud to add our very own CD, “Awake, Arise”, available for £12.95, to our discography.  We hope it will promote our name to a much wider audience.  We are indebted to the many people who have helped in any way with the project.

As the new year dawned six ‘volunteers’ from the Chorus travelled to Glasgow to record an episode of the BBC quiz show “Eggheads”. Under the captaincy of Steve Terry and at 7.30am(!) the team, “The Dawn Chorus”, was put through its paces and, putting up a stirling fight, they came second. Aired on 31 August 2015 the name of SPC was beamed into the homes of the nation.

Sheffield Anglican Cathedral was the venue for our self promoted concert on 2 May 2015. Bruckner’s beautiful Mass in E Minor was performed along with other works, and was well received by a substantial audience. The event revealed some logistical loopholes which have been noted for future reference.

Two weeks later, on 17 May 2015, we were back in the City Hall for a performance of Beethoven’s rousing Symphony No. 9, the Choral Symphony. We were delighted to welcome Members of Leeds Philharmonic Chorus to join us for this performance.

With a quite different and fulfilling season behind us we look forward to surpassing it in 2015-16.

**JANET BOWER Administrator** October 2015

**3 FINANCE OFFICER’S REPORT**

Dear all, As you can see from the Statement of Assets’ (pages 6 and 7) the past season was exceptional from a financial point of view, we made a staggering profit and I am of course delighted to leave the Chorus reserves in such a healthy state. There are several reasons for the discrepancy between last year’s budget (which had a negative contingency!) and the large profit we actually made, which I want to explain.

* I am always generous in my estimation of expenses especially when it comes to the number of rehearsals in the year. I have learned from experience that more often than not we need extra rehearsals, sometimes on Saturdays when it is more expensive. So I always over estimate how much we are likely to spend. This affects the expense for Room hire, Chorus Master and Accompanist that you will see have higher figures in the budget than the actual figures in the expenses. With regards to the Room Hire figure there is also to add that the last bill arrived too late for me to include in the accounts and it will therefore go in the current season budget (ca £900).
* When I set the budget last year, the expenditure figure for our self promoted concert was much higher: at the time we had not yet finalised details for the orchestra and soloists, so again we over estimated the figure. There is also to note that again one of the bills for the concert arrived too late to be included in the accounts, so it will go into the current season budget as “May Concert legacy” (ca £1300).
* We saved quite a lot on Marketing and Publicity, as all our efforts went into the CD production.
* Helen did wonders with her Social events, particularly the Friends event during our concert: she managed to fundraise for these and used less than £100 of her budget, a saving to the Chorus of over £600!
* On the income side I am always conservative: we received £3400 more in Gift Aid, as at the time of the budget I had not confirmed yet that a big donation received was entirely Gift aided ; we sold more than double the CDs I had budgeted for which earned us an extra £4000; we did very well with our self promoted concert and earned an extra £500!

Collection of subscription fees was as ever challenging: I had two people paying on the day of the concert in May! Please, may I remind members that according to our Constitutions members have to pay their subs within three months of the new fee being set. This means that you must either pay in full or set up a standing order within three months of the AGM, failing that, people will be excluded from singing in concerts as in effect they are not members of SPC! We want the Chorus to be as inclusive as possible and we have a concessionary rate for students and whoever else feels that they cannot afford the full amount. Please speak confidentially to Graham after the AGM if you have any concerns about the subscription fee.

I do know that having made such a profit last season, members may feel that we can relax, however we need to remember that we will be called more and more to finance our own concerts, already in the current season we will be promoting a large scale concert at the City Hall. It is against the Charity Commissions best practice to accumulate funds. We need to have enough there to cover expenses if the worse should happen, but we cannot simply keep the funds in our reserves. As a Charity we need to invest in our main purpose which is “to advance the education of the general public in choral music by the regular performance of such music from the widest possible repertoire”, so we must ensure that on one hand we have healthy reserves and on the other that we promote music by investing our money in concerts. I believe this will in practice mean that we will have a small self promoted concert per year and every three years we will need to invest a larger amount of funds into a large scale concert. This is to ensure that we fulfil our aim as a Charity but also so that we have enough challenging material to keep our membership growing and happy. May we always have the funds to promote music!

Many thanks for all the support I have received in my time as the Finance Officer of the SPC.

Angela Argenzio Finance Officer October 2015

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Paying members** |  |
| Full sub | 167 |
| Reduced | 10 |
| **Total** | **177** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Fundraising income** |  |
| Bags & mugs | £23.00 |
| Christmas | £82.00 |
| Amazon | £125.54 |
| books | £7.40 |
| **Total** | **£237.94** |

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| **Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Statement of Assets & Liabilities as at 31.07.2015** | | |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Summary** |  |  | **Monetary Assets** | |  |
| Balance at 31.07.2014 | £55,011.97 |  | General Bank Account | | £4,017.09 |
|  |  |  | Concert Account | | £8,566.14 |
|  |  |  | Savings Account | | £15,250.50 |
|  |  |  | Friends of SPC | | £4,143.50 |
|  |  |  | Friends of SPC savings | | £5,907.52 |
| Profit for current year | £18,872.78 |  | COIF Deposit Account | | £36,000.00 |
|  | **£73,884.75** |  |  |  | **£73,884.75** |
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| **Income Categories** | **Actual** |  |  | **Budget** |
| CD sales | £7,268.85 |  |  | £3,000.00 |
| City hall Tickets | £1,214.00 |  |  | £0.00 |
| Friends of SPC | £1,935.00 |  |  | £2,000.00 |
| Folders & scarves | £115.00 |  |  | £55.00 |
| Fund Raising | £237.94 |  |  | £500.00 |
| Gifts Recieved | £907.10 |  |  | £500.00 |
| Investment Income | £171.38 |  |  | £150.00 |
| Performance fees | £2,749.10 |  |  | £4,500.00 |
| Sale and Hire of Music | £2,620.35 |  |  | £3,000.00 |
| Self promoted concert | £4,019.00 |  |  | £3,500.00 |
| Subscriptions | £20,800.52 |  |  | £19,740.00 |
| Stairclimber fund | £130.00 |  |  | £300.00 |
| Tax Refund | £14,403.10 |  |  | £11,000.00 |
| Travel | £175.00 |  |  | £0.00 |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **Total Income Categories** | £56,746.34 |  |  | £48,245.00 |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Expense Categories** |  |  |  |  |
| Accompanist | £3,270.50 |  |  | £3,895.50 |
| Artistic Cost | £400.00 |  |  | £320.00 |
| CD production | £8,931.06 |  |  | £9,200.00 |
| City Hall tickets | £1,214.00 |  |  | £0.00 |
| Chorus Master | £7,772.00 |  |  | £8,979.50 |
| Complimentary tickets | £40.00 |  |  | £200.00 |
| Coach Travel + other travel | £476.70 |  |  | £1,650.00 |
| Concert contribution | £4,000.00 |  |  | £6,000.00 |
| Gifts & social (including Friends) | £73.29 |  |  | £700.00 |
| Insurance & Subscription | £585.00 |  |  | £650.00 |
| PRS Performing Rights | £75.50 |  |  | £400.00 |
| Publicity & Marketing | £258.00 |  |  | £1,300.00 |
| Purchase and hire of music | £2,683.32 |  |  | £3,000.00 |
| Room Hire | £2,382.50 |  |  | £4,965.00 |
| Secretarial | £734.27 |  |  | £500.00 |
| Self-promoted Concert | £3,102.42 |  |  | £6,500.00 |
| Stairclimber | £0.00 |  |  | £300.00 |
| Voice Coaching | £1,500.00 |  |  | £1,500.00 |
| Workshops | £375.00 |  |  | £375.00 |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **Total Expense Categories** | **£37,873.56** |  |  | £50,435.00 |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **Grand Total** | **£18,872.78** |  |  | **-£2,190.00** |

4 MEMBERSHIP OFFICER’S REPORT

Members of the Chorus will doubtless recall that, because of a major computer failure last year combined with various other difficulties, I was not able to produce a Membership Officer’s Report for last year’s AGM. Once again I offer the Chorus my apologies for this omission. As a result this year’s report will cover the two Chorus years, 2013/14 and 2014/15.

The statistics reproduced below in this report are derived from the computerised Chorus Database.

4.1 Composition of the Chorus

As at the date of compilation of this report (September 2015) there are 181 singing members of the Chorus (October 2014 – 194, September 2013 – 181,) and 72 Honorary Members (2013 – 69, 2014 - \*\*). Of the 181 singing members 5 (2014 – 7, 2013 – 10) are on an authorised Leave of Absence.

The Chorus numbers break down as follows:

2015 2014 2013 (2015)

1st Sopranos 33 35 35 (1on LoA)

2nd Sopranos 29 34 29 (0 on LoA)

1st Altos 32 34 34 (0 on LoA)

2nd Altos 24 24 23 (2 on LoA)

1st Tenors 13 13 10 (1 on LoA)

2nd Tenors 13 15 11 (0 on LoA)

1st Basses 22 22 22 (0 on LoA)

2nd Basses 14 17 17 (1 on LoA)

4.2 Resignations, Retirements and Deaths

During the year 2014/15 13 members retired or resigned or were written off the record due to unexplained absence for more than a year (2013/14 - 8, 2012/13 – 12) comprising:

2014/2015 2013/14 2012/13

1st Sopranos 3 1 2

2nd Sopranos 2 1 1

1st Altos 2 2 3

2nd Altos 1 2 1

1st Tenors 0 1 2

2nd Tenors 2 0 0

1st Basses 1 0 3

2nd Basses 2 1 0

4.3 New Members

During the year 2014/15 4 new members (2013/14-21, 2012/13 – 14) were successfully auditioned and joined the Chorus comprising:

2014/2015 2013/14 2012/13

1st Sopranos 1 3 \* 1

2nd Sopranos 0 6 1

1st Altos 0 2 4

2nd Altos 2 2 2

1st Tenors 0 3 2

2nd Tenors 0 4 0

1st Basses 1 1 2

2nd Basses 0 0 2

* 1 1st Soprano was a returning former member.

4.4 Concert Attendance

A detailed breakdown of the concert attendance statistics is attached to this report as an Appendix (pages 13 and 14).

Just a few points may be highlighted:

1 Chorus Members who have sought a formal Leave of Absence are excluded from the figures. Casual apologies are counted as absences.

2 The overall average Chorus attendance at Concerts for the whole season in 2014/15 was 69.0% of those Members currently available.

(2013/14 – 60.4%, 2012/13 – 71.5%)

3 The best attended concert in 2014/15 was the Christmas Concert in the City Hall at 73.5% of those Members currently available.

(2013/14 – Britten War Requiem 67.4%, 2012/13 - VW Sea Symphony at 76.1%).

4 The worst attended concert in 2014/15 was the Beethoven Choral Symphony at 60.3% of those Members currently available.

(2013/14 – Beethoven Choral Fantasia at 52.1%, 2012/13 - Rachmaninov Vespers at St Marie’s Cathedral, Sheffield at 58.8%).

5 The best section attendance at a concert in 2014/15 was the 2nd Basses at the Christmas Concert in the City Hall.

(2013/14 – 1st Basses at the Britten War Requiem, 2012/13 - 2nd Altos at the Messiah).

6 The worst section attendance at a concert in 2014/15 was 1st Tenors at the first CD Recording session.

(2013/14 – 2nd Basses at the Christmas concerts, 2012/13 - 2nd Tenors at the Rachmaninov concert).

4.5 Honorary Members

There were 3 new Honorary Members approved by the Committee during the year 2014/15 and 4 during the year 2013/14. I have not been made aware of any deaths during the last two years.

4.6 Automated Registration

The system now appears to be working satisfactorily and does save me a good deal of time and effort as well as reducing the number of errors. I can mention, however, that just a few members still experience a little difficulty registering their cards. This is usually caused by one of three factors:

1 Holding the card too close to the reader; it needs to be 6” to 8” away.

2 Waving the card about; it needs to be held still for a couple of seconds in order for the reader to focus on it – the shining red line indicates that the reader is trying to read the barcode.

3 Keeping a finger or thumb over one end of the bar code so as to obscure it; the reader needs to be able to ‘see’ both ends.

I would remind members that the registration system will always be there, whether at a rehearsal or at a concert; it will be the registration computer if the location is secure enough or manual sheets if it is not. If it’s position is not immediately obvious it may have had to be moved for practical purposes – but it will be there somewhere. If you cannot see it immediately, please just ask.

I shall be printing new membership cards for 2015/16 for all Chorus members and these will be issued by the Finance Officer on receipt of the annual subscription paid at the appropriate rate.

4.7 Re-auditions

Re-auditions continue on the usual three yearly cycle. The Soprano section were re-auditioned over three sessions in June 2015 and, apart from some remedial action being recommended in a handful of cases, I am very pleased to be able to report that those who were re-auditioned were successful. For the three people who were not able to attend for various reasons I shall arrange to be reauditioned before the rehearsals in the first few weeks of this new season.

The Alto sections will be due for their triennial re-audition session in the Summer of 2016 and I shall be very grateful if section members will sign up for their slots when advertised as soon as possible in order to keep the number of ‘catch up’ re-auditions to the very minimum.

I would remind all members that if they have not been heard after they have been called for re-audition then they may not sing in subsequent concerts without obtaining specific permission from the Music Director.

4.8 Voice Representatives

The team of Voice Representatives is invaluable to me and, once again, I must not fail to record my annual public expression of my sincere gratitude to each and every one of them for the work they do. They are my ‘eyes and ears’ to the Chorus. I am very happy to note that each one of them is prepared to continue in office.

For the benefit of new members I will list them here:

1st Sopranos Katrina Hulse

2nd Sopranos Pat Hall

1st Altos Rachel Rowlands

2nd Altos Kate Reece

All Tenors Jim Monach

1st Basses Richard Salt

2nd Basses David Mortimer

All the Voice Representatives are very happy to help all members, especially new members, with any queries they may have about the Chorus or to direct any queries to me or to the appropriate Committee member.

4.9 Membership Officer’s Limited Powers of Approval to Sing.

The arrangements for obtaining the Music Director’s approval to sing changed slightly last season and must now be reported. A significant number of members were regularly falling short of the MARs for a number of concerts and/or missing compulsory rehearsals. The consequence was that the Music Director was inundated with requests for approval to sing by people who were falling short of the MARs. As a result, he has now given me a VERY LIMITED discretion to approve those members who just fall short. In consequence, all requests for approval to sing where the MAR has not been achieved or compulsory rehearsals have been missed should in the first instance be addressed to me either directly or via the Voice Representatives. I will then approve those requests which fall within the scope of my discretion or pass on to the Music Director those which do not.

4.10 Concert Seating Plans

It has become my practice in recent times to circulate to the whole Chorus by email a copy of the seating arrangement as approved by the Music Director. It is a great help to both me and to the Chorus as a whole if members check their email inboxes shortly before a concert to download the seating arrangement (which is usually in \*.pdf format) so that they can familiarise themselves with the plan before arriving at the concert venue.

Please note that the singing lists (ie the numbers of those members in each section who have either completed the MAR or have otherwise obtained specific approval to sing in a concert) and the seating plans are closely related; the latter are prepared from the former. Therefore, if a member has fallen short of the MAR and has not obtained specific approval, there is no provision for him or her on the seating plan.

4.11 Warm up / Group voice Coaching Sessions

These sessions are held from time to time during the first 15 minutes of a regular rehearsal by the Chorus’ Voice Coach. Both the Music Director and the Committee consider these sessions to be very important in maintaining the musical quality of the Chorus as a whole and members are expected to be in attendance at all group coaching sessions when they are present for the rehearsal. However, members are also reminded that the Committee instituted a new Chorus Rule to the effect that late comers should not enter the rehearsal room while the group coaching sessions are taking place but should remain quietly outside until the sessions have finished.

4.12 Conclusion

May I remind members that they undertake to sing in all concerts whenever possible and should attend at least three quarters of rehearsals for each. Please make concert dates a priority and let me know well in advance if you are unable to take part. In the event of an illness or other emergency please telephone me before 11:00 am on the morning of the concert or inform another Chorus member so that I can adjust the seating plan.

My telephone numbers are 0114 230 4815 and 07711 846571 and my email addresses are either [john@johnmspence.plus.com](mailto:john@johnmspence.plus.com) or [membership@sheffieldphil.org](mailto:membership@sheffieldphil.org). All this information is prominently displayed on the website. For those of you who can communicate on the free BlackBerry Instant Messaging service my PIN is 25E81C1E.

Please also continue to inform me of changes of address and illness of members that come to your notice.

**JOHN SPENCE Membership Officer** September 2015

MEMBERSHIP OFFICER’S REPORT APPENDIX: Attendance Figures

2013/14 Season Attendance

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | S1 | S2 | A1 | A2 | T1 | T2 | B1 | B2 | Concert Total |
| 1/12/2013  Britten – War Requiem  City Hall, Sheffield |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Attended | 28 | 17 | 26 | 13 | 7 | 8 | 18 | 9 | **126** |
| Total available | 36 | 31 | 36 | 24 | 11 | 11 | 22 | 16 | **187** |
| %age | 77.8% | 54.8% | 72.2% | 54.2% | 63.6% | 72.3% | 81.2% | 56.3% | **67.4%** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 14/12/13  Christmas Concerts –  City Hall, Sheffield |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Attended | 22 | 17 | 25 | 16 | 6 | 6 | 14 | 7 | **113** |
| Total available | 36 | 31 | 36 | 24 | 11 | 11 | 22 | 16 | **187** |
| %age | 61.1% | 54.8% | 69.4% | 66.7% | 54.5% | 54.5% | 63.6% | 43.8% | **60.4%** |
|  | NB: There is some doubt as to whether everyone registered their attendance for this concert | | | | | | | | |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 15/2/2014  Dream of Gerontius –  Leeds Town Hall |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Attended | 20 | 19 | 20 | 13 | 5 | 6 | 17 | 9 | **109** |
| Total available | 36 | 31 | 36 | 24 | 11 | 12 | 22 | 16 | **188** |
| %age | 55.6% | 61.3% | 55.6% | 54.2% | 45.5% | 50.0% | 77.3% | 56.3% | **60.0%** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1/3/2014  Beethoven Choral Fantasia - City Hall |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Attended | 18 | 16 | 17 | 11 | 5 | 6 | 15 | 10 | **98** |
| Total available | 36 | 31 | 36 | 24 | 11 | 12 | 22 | 16 | **188** |
| %age | 50.0% | 51.6% | 47.2% | 45.8% | 45.5% | 50.0% | 68.2% | 62.5% | **52.1%** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 7/6/2014  Everyone Sang -  Victoria Hall, Sheffield |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Attended | 25 | 20 | 23 | 13 | 7 | 8 | 13 | 9 | **118** |
| Total available | 36 | 30 | 36 | 21 | 12 | 13 | 21 | 15 | **184** |
| %age | 69.4% | 66.7% | 63.9% | 61.9% | 58.3% | 61.5% | 61.9% | 60.0% | **64.1%** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 28/6/2014  Vive la Velorution  York Minster |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Attended | Figures are not available for this concert | | | | | | | | |

2014/15 Season Attendance

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | S1 | S2 | A1 | A2 | T1 | T2 | B1 | B2 | **Concert Total** |
| 7/11/2014  Mozart Great Mass in C minor - City Hall |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Attended | 23 | 26 | 17 | 17 | 7 | 8 | 19 | 13 | **130** |
| Total available | 33 | 32 | 34 | 21 | 12 | 15 | 21 | 15 | **183** |
| %age | 69.7% | 81.3% | 50.0% | 81.0% | 58.3% | 53.3% | 90.5% | 86.7% | **71.0%** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 13/12/2014  Christmas Concerts -  City Hall, Sheffield |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Attended \* | 25.5 | 23 | 24 | 17 | 9.5 | 8 | 16 | 13 | **136** |
| Total available | 35 | 31 | 33 | 23 | 12 | 15 | 22 | 14 | **185** |
| %age | 72.9% | 74.2% | 72.7% | 73.9% | 73.1% | 53.3% | 72.8% | 92.9% | **73.5%** |
| \* As there were two performances on this day the average attendance at each has been calculated. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 26/1/2015  ‘Awake Arise’ CD Recording -  City Hall, Sheffield |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Attended \* | 25 | 23 | 20 | 16 | 4 | 7 | 15 | 10 | **120** |
| Total available | 36 | 31 | 33 | 24 | 12 | 15 | 23 | 14 | **188** |
| %age | 69.4% | 74.2% | 60.6% | 66.7% | 33.3% | 46.7% | 65.2% | 71.4% | **63.8%** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 27/1/2015  ‘Awake Arise’ CD Recording -  City Hall, Sheffield |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Attended \* | 25 | 23 | 20 | 14 | 9 | 8 | 15 | 10 | **124** |
| Total available | 36 | 31 | 33 | 24 | 12 | 15 | 23 | 14 | **188** |
| %age | 69.4% | 74.2% | 60.6% | 58.3% | 75.0% | 53.3% | 65.2% | 71.4% | **66.0%** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2/5/2015  Bruckner Mass in E minor etc  Sheffield Anglican Cathedral |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Attended | 25 | 25 | 15 | 19 | 11 | 8 | 18 | 11 | **132** |
| Total available | 36 | 32 | 33 | 23 | 12 | 13 | 23 | 14 | **186** |
| %age | 69.4% | 78.1% | 45.5% | 82.6% | 91.7% | 61.5% | 78.3% | 78.6% | **71.0%** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 17/5/2015  Beethoven Choral Symphony  City Hall, Sheffield |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Attended | 24 | 17 | 18 | 14 | 9 | 7 | 15 | 7 | **111 \*** |
| Total Available | 36 | 32 | 33 | 23 | 12 | 13 | 23 | 14 | **184** |
| %age | 66.7% | 53.1% | 54.5% | 60.9% | 75.0% | 53.8% | 65.2% | 50.0% | **60.3%** |
| \* Numbers singing in the concert were enhanced by members of Leeds Philharmonic Chorus |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

5 NEW MEMBERS OFFICER’S REPORT

This year there have been about 35 people who have contacted me via phone, email or just turning up on a Tuesday.

Of these about 10 finally auditioned successfully. Once again it seems that we need to encourage and welcome visitors at all stages, and hopefully raise the intake numbers. There was no music reading class for potential new men last season, but a series will be run in October so we may gain more men this way.

The reasons for not staying are very varied ..no shows, only one visit and no return, or failed audition (rarely) or change of circumstance. I am confident we are doing all we can to encourage people to join and thank you all once more for helping guide and be-friend visitors.

This season seems to have started with about 16 very enthusiastic potential members, some of whom already want to audition. This, combined with the classes bodes well for high recruitment.

**SALLY TURNBULL New Members Officer** September 2015

6 LIBRARIAN’S REPORT

My grateful thanks again to all of you who have cooperated with the prompt return of your scores.

My brief is to cover the cost of Music and when searching for music I endeavour to get the best deal for all.

In some cases buying scores, especially sheet music of an infrequently performed work makes more sense than hiring from expensive Publishers. These can than be available for hire by other choirs through the “Gerontius” and “Making Music” Websites.

The catalogue of our own music collection is complete but I should like to improve the layout. The order needs refining and for this I am looking for someone with computer skills who can assist me to tidy it up.

I am very grateful to Howard Dore who has given us room to store the music. He and his wife, Janet, could not be more accommodating.,

For the benefit of new members and as a reminder to all:

* There is a charge of £5.00 for the late return of music (2 weeks or more after the concert).
* A lost score will have to be replaced.
* If you have a problem please contact me as early as possible by email or telephone 0114 2683027.

As always, my gratitude goes to all who have assisted me throughout the year.

**ELS PEARSE Librarian** September 2015

7. SOCIAL EVENTS OFFICER’S REPORT

The first social event of the season was a new venture-a cheese and wine party. This followed the rehearsal and AGM. This appeared to be well received and I suspect that it's success was due to the venue being at KES immediately after a rehearsal.

As usual sherry and mince pies were served during the interval of the evening Christmas concert and once again members of the Black Dyke band joined us. The Friends had also been invited to partake in sherry and mince pies between the concerts.

A Cheese and Wine reception was also held for the Friends of the Chorus before the concert at the Cathedral on 2 May 2015.

Following the success of the post-rehearsal Cheese and Wine Party it was decided that the season should end with

a repeat of this event and again it was well attended. Although these events do seem to have been well received I do not want to become complacent and not look for other social opportunities. Therefore please feel free to offer suggestions of what you might like to do and even more importantly where.

For all the above events I have been grateful for the help received from Chorus Members and I must mention Nigel and John Paul at KES who have been extremely accommodating and tolerant.

Next season we are hoping to find a fitting way to celebrate the 80th Anniversary of the Chorus after the concert on 4 June 2016.

Finally, you are probably aware that I try to send cards to those members who are ill or bereaved. I rely on hearing of these from John or other Chorus members so if you do know of anyone deserving of a card please let me know.

**HELEN KIRK Social Events Officer** September 2015

**8 MARKETING and PUBLICITY OFFICER'S REPORT**

Apologies, but this report has been unavoidably delayed.