



Goldsmiths Choral Union

Music Director: Brian Wright

Please reply to:

Sarah Dorin, 25 Ranelagh Avenue, London SW6 3JP

August 2009

Dear All,

I have a great deal to live up to following David's tenure as Chairman of GCU for the past six years. I've probably earned my spurs, having been a member of the choir for 20 years or so and I will try to match his enthusiasm and energy.

The choir year has been as eventful as ever, kicking off with the very successful collaboration with the RPO at the Albert Hall in October, when we performed the Fauré Requiem and Berlioz's monumental Te Deum. Being part of such a large-scale and dramatic performance was incredibly uplifting and moving - I hope everyone enjoyed it as much as I did.

The two Messiahs in December seem to get better every year. Perhaps not rehearsing in the afternoon is the answer, but the more likely explanation is that now we all know what Brian expects of us! Being able to do these concerts for Raymond Gubbay is invaluable for the choir, not just musically, but the funds they generate enable us to plan a more ambitious repertoire than we would otherwise be able to.

We had a good carol concert in December at St John's Waterloo, but this year we are pushing the boat out and carolling at Cadogan Hall, which is in another league cost-wise. As you know from our Spring concert, we incurred a large loss of around £6,000 which means we are very vulnerable financially here and we cannot afford to keep losing hard-raised funds on this scale, so PLEASE try and sell as many tickets as possible for this concert.

Our two Cadogan Hall concerts, featuring Haydn and Handel in March and Rossini and Skellern in July, were very good. But I must reiterate what I said above about selling tickets. I am sorry to bang on about this, but if we want to continue at such venues we have to promote our own concerts. If anyone has any fresh ideas about how we might achieve this please talk to me or to someone else on the committee.

One of our great successes this year was the auction in April, superbly organised by Sharon Pierson and her team of helpers. The auctioneers, Charles Dorin (yes he is mine!) and Mick Pierson were inspired and managed to raise over £6,000 for the choir. Thank you to everyone who so generously donated auction items. The only downside was a very disappointing turnout by choir members; only 55 GCUers registered for bidding cards. We really do need more support at these sorts of events in the future.

Music Director: Brian Wright

Patrons: Sir Thomas Allen, Sir Charles Mackerras CBE, Neil Jenkins, The Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths;
Charity reg no 1044507, VAT no 210 7388 84, Company Limited by guarantee no England 3010834

Enough of the nagging (well, almost); we have just come through the trauma of re-auditions - no, it doesn't get any easier and there are 20 or so members who haven't done theirs yet. Wednesday, 21st October, after the Verdi concert, has been set aside at Baden Powell House in lieu of a rehearsal to mop up all outstanding auditions starting at 6pm. A list of those concerned and a schedule will be available in September. Given the long notice time, all outstanding auditionees will be expected to attend and will not be permitted to sing in future concerts until re-auditioned.

I would like to thank all those who work tirelessly behind the scenes to make the choir run so efficiently and of course where would we be without the talent and energy of Brian and Steve?

We have a wonderful year ahead and lots to look forward to.

Best wishes to you all.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sarah Dorin', with a stylized, cursive script.

Sarah Dorin Chairman