



# Newsletter

## Welcome to the new season

I hope that you have all had a wonderful summer and are now ready to enjoy the marvellous music we have in store this season.

Many thanks for all your work last term for the Monteverdi concert in Rotherfield in June. It was a challenging programme and I thought that we achieved a really good performance. The pictures on Facebook (and below) tell a story of a confident choir, looking up (mostly!), and enjoying the music. A sincere well done to everybody.

We also need to thank all those who put in huge efforts selling tickets, making food and establishing the Facebook page, as well as all the other backstage jobs that few see, but which need to be done. Moving to Rotherfield was an exciting experience. It brought in a new audience and we need to grow that in future, maybe by developing links in several new communities where our singing is appreciated.

The sound of the choir has definitely developed

under Mark's leadership and I think we all owe him a debt of gratitude for improving our vocal technique and choral sound.

If you know anyone who would like to sing, do bring them along, especially if they sing tenor! Tenors are obviously a rare breed and we are looking at ways of attracting more of them, but we really need new blood in all sections. So go out and invite 'your sisters and your cousins and your aunts', as WS Gilbert said in *HMS Pinafore*, to come and sing. Males of all voices will of course also be welcome, as will friends and anyone else you know. More members means less pressure for subscriptions and a better sound.

This term we turn our attention to Handel's *Dixit Dominus* and Haydn's *Missa Sancti Nicolai*. Both are wonderful works and I am sure that we will have great fun singing them.

*Dixit Dominus* is based on the Latin text of Psalm 110 and Haydn's Mass has a text we have sung many times before.

This term we will also welcome new accompanist, Tim Guntrip, and we wish him all the very best in his work with us.

The Trustees are conscious that we need to expand our marketing. We know that many choral societies leaflet others and to that end I have 300 of the 'Keep the date' leaflets designed by Bob Gordon ready to send out. Can I ask if there is anyone in the choir who would be willing to find the addresses of the secretaries of local choirs and send them some leaflets to distribute? We would of course refund postage. Many hands make light work, as the old saying goes, so if anyone would like to volunteer please let me know.

**Keith**  
Chair



Photo: Nigel Cassford

### Dates for your diary

First Rehearsal Autumn Term	6 September
AGM (and rehearsal)	18 October
Handel/Haydn Concert, All Saints Crowborough	25 November
Nine Lessons and Carols, High Hurstwood	10 December
Spring Concert, Pergolesi Stabat Mater/Fauré Requiem	24 March 2018

# Mass for St Nicholas Day

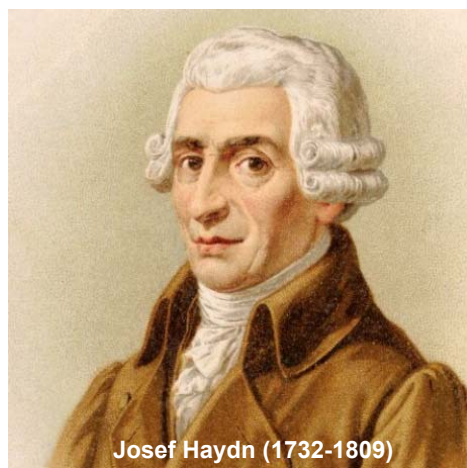
At our November concert, alongside Handel's *Dixit Dominus*, we'll be singing the *Missa Sancti Nicolai* by Josef Haydn. This *Nikolaimesse*, or *St Nicholas Mass*, was written to celebrate the name day of Haydn's employer, Prince Nikolaus Esterházy, on 6 December 1772. Hungarian Prince Nikolaus Esterházy was given the title 'Nikolaus the Magnificent' on account of his prolific building of palaces and his extravagant clothing, as well as his taste for opera and other grand musical productions.

Prince Nikolaus did not himself hire Haydn but 'inherited' him from his brother, who had appointed Haydn Vice Kapellmeister in 1761. Nikolaus promoted Haydn to full Kapellmeister in 1766. The relationship between the



Prince Nikolaus Esterházy (1714-90)

two had got off to a rocky start, with Haydn being reprimanded for negligence in 1765. But the Prince eventually came to value Haydn, twice



Josef Haydn (1732-1809)

rebuilding Haydn's house when it burnt down. He even retained the rather mediocre soprano Luigia Polzelli because she was Haydn's mistress!

## 100 Club latest

Many thanks to all the 100 Club supporters from 2016–17. We raised over £450 for choir funds which was a great result. This money helps us to continue to put on concerts using high quality soloists and musicians to enhance our performance.

The new 100 Club season starts in September. The 100 Club subscription for the 2017–18 season is £15 and this entitles members to have a number entered into the six draws over the next three terms. Half the money received as subs goes to choir funds and half is returned to the members as prizes. There are three

cash prizes to be won in each draw, plus an extra bonus prize at Christmas.

It would be great to have new members too. You can enrol yourself and add family, grandchildren, etc – the more the merrier. The more 100 Clubbers there are, the more money can be redistributed. Do give it a try. You may get very lucky!

I shall be collecting subs during September either as cash or cheques. The first draw is in October.

Many kind regards

**Joyce**



## Next term's music

The scores of Handel's *Dixit Dominus* have been produced by Mark at baroque pitch (good news for sopranos and tenors as baroque pitch is a semitone lower!) and will be available to the choir at a cost of £5 each.

There will be copies of the Haydn *Missa Sancti Nicolai* available both for hire and sale. The cost will be £3 to hire or £7.50 to buy.

**Sheila**



## Facebook

Some of you may have missed the news that Crowborough Choral Society has finally entered the world of social media is now on Facebook.

Since Linda, Sue and I started our page at the beginning of June we have gained over 50 followers, many of whom are not members, but friends of members, and friends of friends. Our followers are from all around the world, including Canada,

the USA and Japan.

If you haven't taken a look yet, come and join us at:

[www.facebook.com/crowboroughchoral/](http://www.facebook.com/crowboroughchoral/)

**Jane**



## AGM

Crowborough Choral Society hereby gives notice that in accordance with the Society's Constitution the AGM for 2017 will be held on:

**Wednesday 18 October 2017.**

[www.crowboroughchoral.com](http://www.crowboroughchoral.com)

