



Newsletter

Musings from the Chair

2017 saw the choir take several huge leaps forward. The work that Mark Beesley has put in during rehearsals has definitely had a positive impact on the sound of the choir. A management tutor of mine used to drum into us that 'confidence always precedes competence' and it's true in singing too. We are a fine choir, but only when we are confident that we are a fine choir will we perform to the peak of our competence.

The last concert was a case in point. Mark chose Handel's *Dixit Dominus* deliberately, knowing that it was difficult. Stephen Cleobury, the Musical Director of King's College, Cambridge, once described *Dixit Dominus* as '... the Everest of choral music'. It is significant then

that Mark, throughout the rehearsals, told us that it wasn't as hard as we thought and kept stressing that the choir was more than capable of singing it well. He succeeded in giving us confidence and the result was one of our finest performances in years. A sincere well done to all who sang and a big 'thank you' to Mark for proving to us that we could do it.

We are also grateful to Andrew Wilson for stepping in as our accompanist in the latter part of 2017 and we look forward to working with him for some time to come.

2017 also saw us welcome The Killick Ensemble as our regular orchestra. It was lovely that Tea and Theresa were able to come to our social evening at David and Irene McNab's house

last Autumn and we look forward to forging more links with the Ensemble, social as well as professional.

As we go forward into 2018 the Trustees will be putting measures in place to increase our confidence and competence. The Education Fund programme will be launched and we will all benefit one way or another from its outcomes.

I am proud to sing with Crowborough Choral Society and I wish you all a Happy New Year. I look forward to seeing you all for our first rehearsal on Wednesday 17 January.

Keith
Chair



Dates for your Diary 2018

First rehearsal Winter/Spring term	17 January
Barn Dance—Rotherfield Village Hall	10 February
Spring Concert—Pergolesi and Fauré, Mayfield School Concert Hall	24 March
Summer Concert—A Night at the Opera, United Church, Crowborough	23 June

An honour for Colin Moore

We are delighted to be able to tell you that The London Gazette reported the following on 30 December 2017: The Queen has been graciously pleased to approve the award of the British Empire Medal (Civil Division) to the undermentioned: Colin John Moore – for services to Music in East Sussex.

The honour is hugely deserved. We know Colin through his fifty years with our choir and without his dedication we would not be singing now. However, Colin's wider work in music and instrumental teaching for the County Music Service, as well as his involvement with The East Sussex Youth Orchestra, means that the impact he has had spreads across the county of East Sussex.

On behalf of the choir, Keith has given Colin our heartfelt congratulations.



Colin Moore, in conversation with our Patron, Dame Felicity Lott, on the occasion of our 50th Anniversary concert, which marked Colin's retirement.

Pergolesi Stabat Mater

Few careers have been cut as cruelly short as that of Giovanni Battista Pergolesi. Born near Naples, where he studied at the conservatory, his productive career began at the age of just twenty. By the age of twenty-six he was dead from tuberculosis.

Shortly before his death in 1736, Pergolesi composed the Stabat Mater, one of his most celebrated sacred works, which demonstrates the infusion of the operatic style into church music at that time.

The mediaeval text describes Mary witnessing the suffering of her son from the foot of the cross. Originally composed for two voices, the version

that we shall be singing in March has been arranged for SATB chorus and two soloists.

During his life Pergolesi enjoyed only moderate success, but after his death he attained star status. The Stabat Mater was particularly successful, as attested by the number of editions that were printed during the eighteenth century.

The significance of Pergolesi's Stabat Mater extends far beyond the ecclesiastical tradition for which it was originally intended, due to the innovative way it offers a very human and profoundly moving picture of a grieving mother.

Recruitment

To secure the future of the choir going forward into our next 50 years, we need to recruit more singers, preferably, though not exclusively, in the 18–35 age group and especially sopranos and tenors, though all voices are welcome. The website and Facebook help, but the Trustees cannot achieve things on their own. You are our best advert. Please be creative. We all need to help find more singers.

Keith



100 Club update

Happy New Year to all 100 Club members!

It was great to see that our bumper £60 Christmas 1st prize went to one of our member's grandchildren – a lovely start to Christmas for him! It was also a treat to see the surprise on the faces of two of our new 2017 members as they won a prize each too.

Our first 100 Club draw of 2018 is at the end of January and there are three

further draws after that. The Easter bumper draw will again have a top prize of £60.

If anyone would like to be added to our group please let me know.

Best of luck everyone.

Joyce



Next term's music

Copies of the Pergolesi Stabat Mater and the Fauré Requiem will be available to hire or to buy. If you wish to buy copies, the Pergolesi will be £6.50 and the Fauré will be £4.50. Both works will be £2 each to hire.

Sheila

