



Newsletter

Welcome from the Chair

The 2017-18 season was, in my view, a really successful one for the choir, and a lot of the credit for that has to be with you, the members. You have sung unfamiliar works, in a number of languages, and with interesting vocal ranges, and I applaud you all.

Mark's experience as a singing teacher has made a huge difference to the sound of the choir. I was particularly impressed with our performance in our 'Night at the Opera' concert in June (see below for picture). Glenys Jones of our sponsors, Tester & Jones, was full of praise for the choir after the concert and she was by no means alone. Well done!

I also want to thank the Trustees and other choir members who have worked quietly in the background to support and manage the choir. The Bursary Scheme, plus individual singing lessons for newer members, links with Crowborough Festival, and the development of our

repertoire could not have happened without them. Three Trustees are standing down at the next AGM and we will need to replace them, so I ask all members to think carefully about whether they might become a Trustee.

During July, Colin Moore, our former Musical Director, with members of his family, attended a garden party at Buckingham Palace and just after that an investiture at the Town Hall in Lewes, where he received his British Empire Medal for services to music in East Sussex. A few of us have been privileged to see the medal, of which Colin is, rightly, immensely proud. I had no idea that each medal is unique, but it is, as the name of the recipient is engraved around the edge. Over the page is a picture of Colin with his medal.

Our ongoing programme is really important. For the first time, we are being invited to take part

in a community event—the concert on 20 October, where not only will be we singing the Fauré Requiem and Pergolesi Stabat Mater once again, but also Simon Austin's new work, which we will sing together with the Singing for Fun Choir for the first time. That really ticks the boxes in terms of our charitable status. Though we have maintained our numbers of members through all our changes, we also need new members. Reaching out to the community, showing what we love doing, is a great way to attract people. However, personal recruitment is also important. If you have friends or acquaintances who might just be interested in singing with us, please bring them along.

I look forward to seeing you all in September.

Keith
Chair



Photo: Nigel Cassford

Dates for your diary

First Rehearsal Autumn Term	5 September
Crowborough Community Festival Concert, Beacon Academy, Crowborough	20 October
CCS Armistice Concert, St Denys Rotherfield	10 November
AGM (and rehearsal)	14 November
Nine Lessons and Carols, High Hurstwood (TBC)	9 December

Dona nobis pacem

After the Community Festival Concert on 20 October, where we will perform Simon Austin's new work 'This Human Shield', alongside the Fauré Requiem and the Pergolesi Stabat Mater, our own Armistice Concert takes place on Saturday 10 November at St Denys Rotherfield. The principal work we'll be performing at that concert is Andrew Campling's oratorio 'Dona nobis pacem'.

First performed in 2011, 'Dona nobis pacem' sets to music various passages from the Bible, and poems by Wilfred Owen and GA Studdert Kennedy. It also includes hymns and popular songs, interspersed with spoken extracts (our narrator will be John Marsh) from the diary of the



William Charles Campling (1887-1973)

composer's grandfather, the Reverend William Charles Campling, Chaplain to the Essex Regiment and the 11th Somerset Light Infantry of the British Forces.

In the diary, which was only discovered by his family after the Reverend Campling died in 1973, he recounts his experiences while serving in France in the final months of the First World War, from September to November 1918.

'Dona nobis pacem' will provide a moving and memorable highlight to our concert which takes place on the eve of the 100th anniversary of the Armistice to end the First World War.



Next term's music

There are six pieces of music for our concert on 10 November:

Noel Bannister In Flanders Fields	Buy only	£1.00
Noel Bannister I'm not there	Buy only	£1.00
Benjamin Britten Agnus Dei	Buy only	£2.50
CH Parry My Soul there is a Country	Buy only	£1.00
Andrew Campling Dona nobis pacem	Borrow only	£1.00
Simon Austin This Human Shield	Borrow only	No charge

The Simon Austin piece is free is because the night it was distributed to most people I was not there and therefore no charge was made. We need to keep to that in the interests of fairness.

We will also be singing the Pergolesi and Fauré works from our March concert in the community concert on 20 October. Library copies of each work will be available to hire at a charge of £1.00 each. Please let me know if you wish to buy either piece and I will order for you.

Sheila



100 Club

A very big thank you to everyone in the choir who joined the 100 Club for the 2017-8 season. We returned almost £500 to members of the 100 Club and raised the same amount to help stage our concerts. It would be so good to be able to equal or even exceed this total for the 2018-9 season.

If you would like to continue or join the 100 Club, I'll be collecting the £15 subs in September (cash or cheque payable to CCS) ready for our first prize draw in October. You could be a lucky winner. Family/grandchildren are most welcome. All mine are members!

Good luck!

Joyce



Colin Moore BEM



Colin Moore, with his British Empire Medal, which he received in Lewes earlier this summer.

Rellingen wedding



Congratulations to our friend Oliver Schmidt from Rellingen, who married Claudia Schmidt-Ralfs back in June.

AGM

Crowborough Choral Society hereby gives notice that in accordance with the Society's Constitution the AGM for 2018 will be held on:

Wednesday 14 November 2018.

www.crowboroughchoral.com