



HIATUS NEWSLETTER NO. 4

Special Birthday Edition

Well, your Committee is still plugging away, making plans, then cancelling them! However onward and upward ...

Autumn Concert – Dvorak Requiem

Hopefully we will manage a concert in November, but in case we do have to wait a little longer to get together for rehearsals, fear not.

The Music Committee met last week and apart from discussing all sorts of plans for future concerts, agreed that if we can't perform the Requiem in November, then we'll do it in Spring 2021. So, for those of you who have bought the score or CDs and are busy practising – carry on the good work, it will not be in vain.

AGM

We are busy working out how best to manage the AGM on Zoom and full instructions on how to attend and participate will be sent to you in due course (once Helen has worked out which buttons to press).

Concert recordings

Peter will have finished work on the recordings of our last three performances by the time of the AGM, if not before. As Nansi put it: "*Having the opportunity to listen to our past triumphs will be very uplifting in these trying times!*". Details of how to purchase them will follow shortly.

And now for something completely different:

[Liz's Lockdown Blog](#)

Just another day in lockdown, but the Turnbull household has settled into a bit of a routine.

9.00 am. John plugs the laptop into the tv in the music room. Joe Wicks jumps into the screen and we proceed to do 20 intense minutes of exercises – P.E. with Joe! Bunny hops, mountain climbers, press-ups, fireman's ladder, spiderman squats etc etc – 30 secs on, 30 secs rest!! It's aimed at kids and families, and Joe is irrepressible with his 'shout-outs' and quiz questions and 'spot-the-differences' in his living room but he gets you going! It's not how I imagined starting every weekday morning, -but you know, -Joe's right, the endorphins get going and you feel so much better after some exercise. It helps you get on with the rest of the day.

5.30 pm. John plugs the laptop into the tv again, and Gareth Malone appears on our screen, ready to take us through some warm-up exercises and singing tips before launching into rehearsal of this week's song for the Great British Home Chorus. Now this was one that I was going to avoid. It's not real singing, I thought, when you can't sing in parts with the rest of the Choir! Then Gareth decided to rehearse Vivaldi 'Gloria' and I just wanted to join in. The

idea is that you rehearse the songs with Gareth, (music, backing tracks etc are on YouTube) everyday, then you video yourself singing your part along to the backing track on your mobile phone! The video is uploaded to Decca (Gareth tells you how) and your video is mixed with everyone else's to make the Virtual Home Chorus. You must be seeing these virtual choir performances, -they're popping up everywhere on social media! (Gareth does some fun warm-ups too, try 'Danger Men at Work' - fiendish!)

Singing on your own into a mobile phone is surprisingly demanding and we have to have numerous takes. Getting the phone camera at the right height involves music stands and gaffer tape and earphones and laptops. Our videos turn out to be horrendous. We don't like the way we look and we certainly don't like the way we sound, BUT it serves as a really interesting learning tool, showing you that you really don't open your mouth, - you know how Chris chides us for looking miserable or apathetic, well it's true! It reminds you that you don't always hit the note right in the middle, or even the right note, although you're convinced you have; and how your descending phrases really do descend to a completely different key from the intended one. And that's with your line being sung directly into your right ear! If you read the comments, everyone hates their videos, so I'm going to submit mine anyway. It'll get mixed in with everyone else's, the overall blend will be great and I can say I was a part of it – and I might just see myself on tv for a fleeting second!

So that's how we've been keeping ourselves amused, what about you? We'd love to know what you're up to, have you joined any virtual choirs or activities that others might enjoy? Did you have a sing-song in your road on VE day, we did! I've got an horrendous video of that singing experience too, but I'll spare you the link to that one!!

Keep well and happy! Liz x

And last, but not least:



Happy Birthday Chris!



(Note to Chris: you'll just have to imagine we're singing Happy Birthday, not Elijah).

Sadly, Moya is unable to present Chris with his card and cake at rehearsals as is customary on this auspicious occasion, but our Vice-Chairman was not to be deterred.

Moya has posted the card and even more ingenious, included a DIY cake-making kit “for him to get his head round”. We look forward to seeing the results.

CONDUCTOR'S CORNER



HR/21st May 2020

Moya