



### What a great start to the 2023-24 season!

This bulletin, for choir members, MD, AMD, Friends and Supporters, offers a few words of reflection on the enjoyable and musically productive time we've had this autumn and a moment to be justly proud of the resulting *'utterly brilliant concert'* in December.

These resounding words from our MD, Will Baldry:

*'Vibrant singing, a hearty sound, splendid communication and conviction - the choir really was on top form! This was an ambitious programme to pull off, with no soloists to share the load, and little rest for any vocal part. Choir and audience were in agreement that the whole evening left them with a special feeling of warmth and goodness inside.'*

Richard's organ solos were a delight - Haydn 'Pieces for Musical Clock' and Leroy Anderson's 'Sleigh Ride' arr. Thomas Trotter, and his accompanying was majestic and full of colour, despite the ailing of the organ!

We are incredibly fortunate at SC to benefit from the inspiring musical team of Will Baldry and Richard Cook; our immense thanks to them both.

### Carol Singing

*Saturday 25th November saw twenty or so members of Stowmarket Chorale don thermals and Christmas hats to sing carols in Stowmarket Marketplace. Competing with a Ferris wheel and sub-zero temperatures, Maggie organised us and we delivered festive cheer to the good folk of Stowmarket. A quick warm up in The John Peel Centre half-way through refreshed us for the second set and we dispersed, feeling Christmas had truly started.*

*Ten days later a dozen of us, ably accompanied by Ruth, met at Chilton Court care home to sing carols. It is uplifting to see how music touches residents, many of whom sing along with us, no doubt remembering Christmases and carols from many years ago. It is always a humbling experience.*

*I joined the Chorale in September and despite feeling a bit like the new girl at school, I have been touched by the welcome I have received. Not only is it wonderful to be singing with a committed group of singers but I'm struck by the genuine respect and care that members have for each other. After all the rehearsals and hard work, not least by the committee, members seem to enjoy themselves, have fun and produce great music. I look forward to singing in future concerts with Stowmarket Chorale.*

Lucy Rickard (soprano)

## The Quiz

*These evenings are always fun, and this was the same! (Not just because we won!!!) We always have laughs and extract bits of knowledge we didn't know were lurking in our brains. For anyone unsure about quizzes, give it a go – it IS fun!*

*The array of puddings to share are always fantastic, especially Gail's pavlova and Kim's lemon meringue roulade. YUM!*

*There were 4 tables of jolly happy folk. There are usually a lot more, but illness and commitments I guess got in the way. I hope poorly people are recovering.*

*These occasions fulfil 2 roles, vital fundraising, and the chance for a bit of fun. The choir feels a very happy bunch, and the Singing Day will be another opportunity for you to have fun and help towards the costs of the June concert.*

Rosemary & David Humphries (SC Front of House/Friends)

## Icanho-ho-ho!

*SC was invited to join the 'Suffolk Scratch Singers' for this event, raising funds for Icanho. There might have been 30 singers, but illness took its toll - no sop soloist - no Tom Appleton to conduct - maybe only 20ish singers. And SC provided 6 of those.*

*Despite the shortages it was a good do, with a decent audience.*

*Pam Rhodes of Songs of Praise fame compered and interviewed staff and clients. And we had a Good Sing.*

Carol Henwood (alto)

## Good tidings from Stowmarket Town Council Communities Grant Scheme 2023/24!

We have been successful in our application and are pleased to report that SC has been awarded £400.00 towards professional soloist/orchestral player fees and travel expenses. Many thanks to Stowmarket Town Council!

This award is an excellent start to our 'journey' raising the substantial funds needed for our June 2024 Vivaldi & Handel concert.

## What next?

In the new year, we move on to preparation of an entirely secular concert programme featuring Alexander L'Estrange's luscious 'Love's Philosophy', Lauridsen's magical 'Sure on this Shining Night' and Elgar's majestic 'Sea Pictures'.

The first rehearsal is at Trinity Primary on Wednesday 3rd January 7.30-9.30pm.

If you know anyone who would be keen to sing the Elgar and join us for the term, please persuade them to come along!

The word is out there that SC performances are worth hearing, that we have terrific camaraderie amongst us, along with shared choral energy and commitment to high musical standards.

All encouraging selling points, with outstanding leadership from Will and Richard!

## Come and Sing! Saturday 10th February at the JPC

Registration from 10.30am, finish at 3pm.

This is our major fundraiser for next term and the responsibility for ticket sales is with SC.

Booking through-

[info@stowmarketchorale.org.uk](mailto:info@stowmarketchorale.org.uk)

or 07912 432220

Please give personal invitations to singing friends from across our region and beyond; we want to attract as many people as possible to join us for the day.

You never know, we may persuade some to stick with us for the Vivaldi concert in June!



## Mozart Requiem anyone?

<https://www.labradorevents.com/mozart-requiem-tour>

<https://www.trbc.co.uk/events/mozart-requiem-royal-albert-hall/>

These two Come & Sing opportunities have reached my inbox, the first at St Peter Mancroft, in Norwich city centre (January) and the second at the Royal Albert Hall (May).

**Wishing all SC Members, Friends & Supporters a Very Joyful Christmas and a Peaceful 2024.**

**GAUDETE!**



**Merry Christmas**





**December 2023 Concert:**  
**~ Mozart ~ Buxtehude ~ McDowall ~**  
**with Carter and Gardner carols**







***Carol Singing at Chilton Court Residential Home, Stowmarket***