

Musical Director's report

At this time of uncertainty and anxiety it's good to be able to look back over the past year and see how Trinity Singers, in common with similar groups all over the globe, can act as a little beacon, a tiny oasis in the busy and fraught lives of its members. Tuesday evenings bring their own stresses sometimes, of course (particularly in the last week or two before a performance, when your MD starts to shout and stamp and kick things), but the camaraderie and the exhilaration of shared music-making are always a joy. And the concerts ... well, they're something else again.

This is my 5th year as your MD, and through that time one thing has remained constant — you scare me silly [insert more robust adjective here if you wish] in the run-up to a concert and then pull the proverbial rabbit from the hat on the day. And over this last year the rabbit has emerged clad in some glorious, glowing colours. (OK, enough of the rabbit metaphor already ...)

A strong feature of our choir is its versatility, its assuredness in an increasingly broad range of styles. In April the 20th birthday concert showed this off well, in music ranging from Victoria and Handel through to 'Go down, Moses' and 'Mister Blue Sky'. The acoustic of Shipham Village Hall is challenging for us, but with our friends from Lochrian Ensemble and Alison Blundell we made an impressive sound and the event was a triumph musically, socially and cakeily. Ten days later we repeated the programme for our first visit to Christchurch, Clevedon. I don't know if this is the same for you, but for me sometimes a fleeting moment of music — a tiny musical snapshot — stays in the memory, and for me the last few bars of 'Make Our Garden Grow' at Clevedon is one. Thrilling.

For June's Choral Evensong at Holy Trinity, Burrington we were joined by John Bodily for Brewer in D, and two ever-popular anthems in Bruckner's 'Locus iste' and Stainer's 'God so loved the world'. Holy Trinity continues to be a conundrum for me: it's cramped, even with a reduced choir we struggle to fit in, it's not a big church at all — and yet the sound can be sumptuous. I know for some members Choral Evensong there is one of the highpoints of the year, and if my constant doubt as to what comes next in the order of service, how many verses we're meant to be singing and whether we should be stood up or sat down adds to your amusement & enjoyment ... well, so be it!

Our annual visit to St Michael's is always a treat for us: we know we're sure of a warm welcome, and there's always a slight end-of-term feel to things with the pressure off a little. It was just the same this year.

In November our shared concert with Churchill Academy Chamber Choir confirmed once again the value of this continuing collaboration. The quality of the body of sound we can achieve together is really quite something. The TS sections of the programme again demonstrated our range, with the beautiful Ešenvalds 'Stars' and four songs from Bernstein's 'West Side Story' alongside Handel, Lotti and Clara Schumann. The Lotti 'Crucifixus a 8' here was another of my personal standout moments of the year.

December brought, as usual, carols at Burrington and our supper concert at Wrington. Some of us were fortunate also to be involved in Weston Hospicecare's 'Light Up a Life', a simple and moving act of remembrance of loved ones.

And so, in January, we started on rehearsals for our big concert at the end of March, a programme of Italian Baroque sacred music. All going well, peaking at just the right time, and then ...

Clearly your committee had no alternative but to cancel the concert. 'Postpone' is maybe more accurate: we will perform this programme at some point, though when this might be is anyone's guess right now.

Thankyou to you all for your hard work and enthusiasm through the year. Please continue to make TS your unshakeable Tuesday evening commitment. A warm thankyou too to your committee, who do so much largely unseen work to make TS and its events the success they are.

Keep singing! It's one way to make sure people keep at least 2m away from you ... 😊
And good luck, everybody.

Andrew x