

Cranford Choral Society

www.cranfordchoral.org.uk

Registered Charity Number 1114655

May 2010

Enthusiastic Musical Director wanted!

Cranford Choral Society is a non-auditioned, amateur choir based in Moulsoford, South Oxfordshire. We are fifteen years old this year.

We are looking for a new musical director to replace Malcolm Harding, who is reluctantly having to part company with us after our next concert owing to a major overload of work. We want to appoint as soon as possible, although we expect the new musical director to start in September 2010. Malcolm will take initial rehearsals for our planned *Christmas Oratorio* (scheduled for 4th December in Dorchester Abbey) from 24th May until the end of the rehearsal year in June.

Repertoire

Over the fifteen years of the choir's existence, we have performed a wide range of material, Some examples are:

Handel's *Messiah*, Rossini's *Petite Messe Solenne*, requiems by Mozart, Rutter, Fauré, Carl Jenkins' *The Armed Man*, Haydn's *Creation*, Vaughan Williams' *Benedicite*, Vivaldi's *Gloria*, Monteverdi's *Beatus Vir*, Britten's *St Nicolas*, as well as some lighter pieces. You can see a full list of our past performances on our website.

We are very open to suggestions from the musical director as to what we should sing, and feel that it is essential that the s/he is enthusiastic about the work and can communicate that to the choir.

Character

The majority of choir members are in the age range early 40s to mid 50s, although we certainly have people younger and older. There are currently about 80 regular attendees, although historically this has been as high as 100, and we are hoping to build back up to that number.

We are a friendly group, with a fair amount of suppressed enthusiasm. We all enjoy singing, and always seem to have a bit extra to pull out for performances. The ability range is quite wide, and includes some who don't read music. We do seem to require a fair amount of note bashing, and very few people are confident sight singers.

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Rehearsals & Performances

We rehearse on Monday evenings from 8:00pm to 9:30pm, at Cranford House School in Moulsoford, from early September to early December, then from early January to late June, with a couple of weeks off for Easter and bank holidays (depending on how the rehearsals are going!) There are about 40 sessions in a year. We do not rehearse during July or August.

Typically, we do two performances a year; at present we are using Dorchester Abbey but are open to suggestions for other venues. We often combine a performance with children from the senior chamber choir at Cranford House school in the village.

We have recently started using an orchestra (the Amadeus Orchestra for the past two concerts), and will probably settle on one concert with, and one without, orchestra in the year. This is partly to control costs and the complexity of the stage management on the day. If we are not using an orchestra, typically we will use organ or piano accompaniment, but there is certainly nothing to stop us using a small number of instruments if appropriate. This approach may constrain the choice of repertoire to some extent.

We tend to use soloists known personally to the musical director, and have a number of regular singers who work with us.

Remuneration

We currently pay £50 per session and £100 per concert.

Governance

We are a registered charity, and have a committee of seven trustees (chair, secretary, treasurer, librarian, publicity, Cranford House liaison and one other).

Next Steps

Please contact Chris Mousley Jones, Chair, to talk about the post further.

Telephone: 01491 651199 / 07947 353053

Email: chair@cranfordchoral.org.uk

Chris Mousley Jones

Chair

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