

For the Diary

Concerts

Saturday 3 November 2018 7:30 pm
Bedworth Civic Hall, High Street, Bedworth
Performing Handel's Messiah

Saturday 15 December 2018 at 7:30 pm.
King Henry VIII School, Warwick Road, Coventry
Christmas concert

Friday 21 December 2018 at 7:30 pm.
Family Chapel, Stoneleigh Abbey, Nr. Kenilworth
Christmas concert

Saturday 19 January 2019 at 7:30 pm
St Mary's Church, Church Street, Warwick
Performing Gounod's St Cecilia

Other Events

Thursday 27 September 2018
EGM during normal rehearsal evening

Thursday 18 October 2018
Society AGM during normal rehearsal evening

Saturday 17 November 2018
St Barbara's Church Hall, Earlsdon, Coventry
Quiz night with fish n chip supper. Cost tba

Rehearsals

We rehearse every Thursday evening from September to July at Quinton Park Baptist Church Hall, Coventry. Rehearsals start at 7:15pm and finish at 9:30pm.

Find us Online

Our official website is at <http://www.covphilsoc.org.uk/>
and our official Facebook page is at
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/27912395845/>

Membership enquiries

Email: secretary@covphilsoc.org.uk, or you are welcome to join us at one of our Thursday evening rehearsals

An "interesting" time ahead!



This is a lovely photo taken by Elizabeth Yardley during the interval at our "Elijah" concert of 22 September. This was a glorious concert with stunning soloists and a great organ accompaniment. A brilliant start to our 75th season.

As you will see from the Diary section we have several concerts to deliver over the next few months so it will be a busy time for all.

On top of this, there are major changes behind the scenes. John Atkins and Peter Snaith are resigning their positions as Chairman and Secretary, and other Committee members are moving onto pastures new. Consequently we need to nominate and elect replacements at the EGM and AGM. Being a Committee member, or carrying out one of the non Committee roles, is actually quite fun and contributes enormously to the smooth running of the Society - so please consider putting yourself forward for nomination.

John and Peter in particular will be greatly missed, not just for their singing but for their dedication to the well-being of the Cov Phil. I know everyone will wish them all the best for the future.

For the present, however, I hope you will enjoy reading a few memories from Rosalind, granddaughter of the "father" of the Phil and, as some of you will recall, one of our soloists on a number of occasions.

Rachael Bermingham, Editor

Rosalind's Memories

When I was researching the history of the Coventry Philharmonic Society, I unearthed a couple of newspaper articles of particular interest. The first, dated 13 April 1943, announced the establishment of the Society in Coventry, an idea sponsored by Councillor G E Roberts. The second, dated 10 December 1966, concerned the soprano solo debut of a Miss Rosalind Roberts, the granddaughter of Councillor Roberts. I was delighted that Rosalind, now Rosalind Light, was happy to share her memories of the 'Phil' with us. Ed.

I have recently read Coventry Philharmonic's 75th Anniversary Newsletter with much pleasure and happy memories of my time with 'The Phil' as a soloist. I felt I needed to thank you after all these years for the many opportunities your committee gave me to sing some of the greatest Choral works as a young, aspiring singer. Indeed I was so proud to have this connection as my Grandfather Councillor George Roberts was a founding father of the Society and my Father was a loyal member of the basses for about 12 years.

I sang under the baton of three Musical Directors: John Strickson, Tim Reynish and John Dowding. My first concerts were the traditional Christmas ones in 1966 while I was still a student at the RCM Opera School. I was so pleased to note from the Newsletter that Sir Adrian Boult took a keen interest in the Choir as I had the privilege of singing as a soloist under his baton in the lovely 'Serenade to Music' at Westminster Abbey together with other students including the young Tom Allen!!

I have a joyous memory of singing 'Elijah' with dear Tim Reynish conducting, a work I was singing with other choral Societies at the time, but the one with Tim and The Phil was my most abiding memory.

Of the many other concerts I sang with The Phil, a good number under John's baton, two particularly stand out for me – Solomon with James Bowman and the very beautiful solo in Brahms Requiem.

Useful Information

Committee Members - John Atkins (Chair), Peter Snaith (Secretary), John Thompson (Treasurer), Celia Lewis (Membership), Sheila Cowen, Henry Whitney (Librarian), Neil Kingdon (Ticketing), Rachael Bermingham, Jay Durrant, Clare Gelsthorpe (Deputy Librarian), Margaret Jakiel, Andrew Kyle, Heather Payne, Clare Samson, Hilary Ward, Mike Ward (Front of House)

Publicity - Margaret Jakiel, Andrew Kyle

Social Committee - Sheila Cowen (Chair), Liz Chester, Jay Durrant, Margaret Thompson, Hilary Ward, Glenda Way

At this time when my daughter was little and needed me to be stay at home Mum as much as possible, I had made the decision not to tour with my company Phoenix Opera until she was older, although this was a wrench as I was 'making headway' with the Company – it turned out to be a huge blessing in disguise as the musical activities in Coventry, particularly the Philharmonic and the Coventry School of Music seemed to take me to their hearts and together with other opportunities such as Cathedral Lunchtime concerts it was indeed a wonderful time that I shall never forget.

Later on I went back to my work with Phoenix and re-established links in London, gaining an international agent.

I feel my Grandfather would have been absolutely delighted to know that 'The Phil' is not only still in existence, but going from strength to strength. As I look forward to celebrating 40 years this coming academic year with my other long association as a singer and vocal tutor at University of Warwick, I can only rejoice and marvel at the wonderful experiences I have had by 'blooming where I was planted' despite questions as to why I wasn't based in London!!

Rosalind Light