

## A Few Notes



### Newsletter No 29



Hello everyone,

What a busy term we have had – well done everyone! Congratulations and a BIG thank you for achieving *'Four carol concerts, a wedding and a marathon!'* (the latter being the workshop and performance at Wendover).

The commitment and enthusiasm of our Choir Members never wanes - even for the Carol Concerts on 10 December following the heavy snowfall, 55 members managed to turn out. It is understandable why members from more rural areas, or those with sickness or travel issues could not partake; audience numbers were depleted for the same reasons but those who did attend commented that it was a great success.

Jim and I would like to take this opportunity to say a big THANK YOU for the very generous Christmas gifts (we couldn't resist opening them before Christmas Day) we love all of them: flowers, candles, chocolates and two gorgeous reindeer ornaments – if you walk past our house during the festive season you might see them looking at you from one of the windows! Then of course were the two tickets for a night out at The Stables in Wavendon – Jim and I are really looking forward to that!

We can look forward to next term when we will feel rejuvenated and ready for another chapter in our musical journey, with the first target being the MK Festival of The Arts Choral Competition in March, more details of which are below.

To my 'choir family' that I feel honoured to have in my life, may the festive season warm your soul, bring joy to your heart and bless you with contentment, health and happiness.

Wishing you all a very merry Christmas and a harmonious 2018.

Jilly x

## MK Festival of The Arts Choral Competition

The MK Festival of The Arts Choral Competition takes place on Friday 9 March and, due to our choir size, we know that we will be programmed to perform in the evening; our timings should be known during January.

We are required to perform two contrasting pieces in 'choral' style, with no extended solos and minimal choreography. Jilly has chosen *'The Rhythm Of Life'* and *'You Raise Me Up'* as the two pieces to be performed from memory.

## Performing Rights – Royalty Payments

Some members may be unaware that Performing Rights royalties have to be paid whenever a piece is sung or played in public – even if it's only a couple of bars. There are a few exemptions, such as weddings, church services and performances in Care Homes (provided that only residents and staff are present).

We are fortunate in that Wing Village Hall has a Performing Rights licence, meaning that our performances there have the royalty liability included within the rental cost. We maintain careful records of our performances elsewhere, with audience numbers, and pay our fees at the end of the year. For 2017 we have recently paid royalties of £143.91.

## Photocopying of Music Scores

As you know, your Committee has been insistent from the formation of *The Wing Singers* that the photocopying of music scores is a breach of copyright and will not be permitted; this is included in the choir's Constitution and is essential to preserve Jill Neenan's integrity as a professional musician.

Nonetheless, with everyone having struggled during the past month with the *Carols for Choirs* book during various performances, we thought that there might be an acceptable and occasional loophole.

We approached Making Music, our professional agents through whom our Performing Rights fees and insurance are paid, asking whether it might be permissible for a choir member who had purchased a large score book, such as *Carols for Choirs*, to use a photocopy during a performance. To our regret they responded by saying:

*'The Music Publishers Association have a [Code of Fair practice](#) that lists where photocopying of sheet music is allowable. The specific scenario you describe is not listed in the MPA code of practice. If the copying of a heavy book was necessary due to a physical disability – then it would be covered.'*

We anticipate that there are some members who can justifiably claim that they suffer a 'physical disability' that makes the handling of *Carols for Choirs* a problem, in which case photocopying will be permitted. In case of any challenge being raised – which apparently can happen - those members should also have with them their own copy of *Carols for Choirs*. Should anyone wishing to take advantage of this need help with photocopying, please ask Lance Redler.

## Fundraising for the Choir

Newer members may not know that our choir is accepted as a 'good cause' by EasyFundraising, from which we have already gained over £320. Members have raised money this way when changing their energy supplier, booking hotels or holidays, insuring their car or home and doing online Christmas shopping. You can sign up to EasyFundraising by following the link on the 'Funding' tab on the choir website: <http://www.thewingsingers.org.uk/funding/>. After that it's very straightforward each time you shop. Lance Redler is happy to help anyone to get started.

EasyFundraising has to date distributed over £20 million to more than 90,000 good causes.

More than 3,100 shops and sites, including many rail, airline and hotel booking sites, give a small percentage of whatever you spend online to us, via EasyFundraising. You pay nothing extra – you just have to remember to go to Amazon/John Lewis/British Airways/Expedia etc etc via the EasyFundraising link when you do your shopping or book your holidays. John Lewis at the moment is donating up to 2% of what is spent with them, for example.

#### Choir Performances – Information Sheets.

Detailed information sheets are prepared and emailed in advance of all choir performances. When attendance numbers are large, such as for our concerts, copies are sent to all choir members, but for smaller numbers – such as weddings or the most recent Over 60s Lunch - the information sheets are only sent to those whose names are listed as taking part.

If you expect to be taking part in a performance, but have received no information and there are only about three days to go, send us an email or telephone/text Lance Redler and we can ensure that you receive it and are included on the list of participants (telling Jill Neenan is not sufficient; she has too many other commitments and even though she plans our events and creates the Information documents, she does not deal with the communication or the administration of the choir).

#### Choir Calendar

The choir website [www.thewingsingers.org.uk](http://www.thewingsingers.org.uk) is always kept up to date, so if ever in doubt about when or where we are meeting, times etc., just take a look at the Calendar page, where there are separate sections for 'Upcoming Performances' and for 'Rehearsal Dates'.

#### Do You Like the Way that the Choir is Run?

Do *you* like the way that the choir is run? What pleases you? What doesn't?

Jill Neenan would welcome comments, ideas or suggestions about the choir from any members. Ideally these are made via our email address, but a separate note to her is equally acceptable (praise is also welcomed of course!).

Choir Contact Details. Email messages for Jill Neenan (choral matters), or Lance Redler (membership and general administration), should be sent to [wingsingers@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:wingsingers@yahoo.co.uk). Lance can also be contacted by telephone on: (01296) 681286 or 07769 942951. The choir website is: [www.thewingsingers.org.uk](http://www.thewingsingers.org.uk).

19 December 2017



*Happy Christmas  
Everyone!*