

For your Diary

Sat 13 Feb – Rehearsal of *St John Passion*, 10:00 am to 12:30 pm in the Crypt

Tue 16 Feb – Rehearsal 6:15 to 8:45 pm in Crypt, first 45 min with Ken Young, Proms conductor

Thu 18 Feb – Proms final rehearsal, 7:15 to 10:15 pm in Town Hall, Assemble in Choral Room at 6:45 pm

Fri 19 Feb – Proms concert, 7:30 pm in Town Hall. Assemble in Choral Room at 7:00 pm.

Tue 23 Feb – Regular rehearsal, start of *St John Passion* ticket/voucher selling

Tue 2 Mar – Sales Table

Sun 7 Mar – Rehearsal of *St John Passion*, 3:00 to 5:30 pm in the Crypt

Fri 26 Mar – 7:15 to 10:15 pm rehearsal in St Paul's Cathedral

Sat 27 Mar – 2:00 to 4:30 pm rehearsal in St Paul's Cathedral

Sat 27 Mar – *St John Passion* performance 7:30 pm in St Paul's Cathedral

Sun 28 Mar – *St John Passion* performance 4:00 pm in St Paul's Cathedral

Tue 30 Mar – AGM, *St John Passion* debrief (return of scores) and Social

Tue 6 Apr – No rehearsal

Tue 13 Apr – Sales Table

Sun 20 Jun (tbc) – Rossini: *Petite Messe Solennelle*

St John Passion

Please make every effort to sell these 2 concerts so we fill the Cathedral for both performances. Ticket/voucher prices are \$30 waged, \$25 unwaged and \$15 student door sales. The oratorio takes approximately 2 hours, including an interval, and we recommend the audience bring cushions.

A Word from the Chair

Welcome back everyone to another year of great music-making. You'll see above the programme for the first half of the year but we are still working on the second half which will probably include something in both September and November – we'll get details out as soon as we can.

Leta and Heather have both resigned from the committee due to heavy work and study commitments and their roles will need to be filled. They were both hard workers for the Choir and will be sorely missed particularly Leta who was tireless in her role as Secretary. I extend our thanks to them on your behalf. The good news is that Leta will continue as webmaster off the committee; but we need a Secretary urgently, essentially to cover correspondence, as we have a Minute Secretary.

In joyful singing, Deborah

Apologies: Phone Jeanette 473 8239 or email members@cityofdunedinchoir.org.nz

School Students

We received great letters from the students who sang *Messiah* with us last December – they clearly thrived on the experience.

“Thank you so much, for all you have done for me in the *Messiah*. I have loved the rehearsals



and had the time of my life when it came to the performance. I am thankful that you have included me in this wonderful production. I hope to come back in 2011, and perform with the Choir again.'

"I very much enjoyed myself during the Messiah. It was a wonderful experience. The choruses from memory weren't too bad I would just lipsing! I enjoyed the experience so much that I will definitely consider to join in the future."

Fund-raising Corner

We are looking forward to another year of projects aimed at raising much-needed funds for the Choir. If you have any ideas for good fund-raising schemes, please pass those on to a Committee Member or email info@cityofdunedinchoir.org.nz.

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Notable Choir Blog Post



Posted on **15 January – Proms 2010**

All the lyrics and video examples of the Proms fare. Use this to rehearse the songs you do not know. Remember, we have to sing all of this off by heart. No copies allowed!

Survival Tips for Choral Singers

Aside from singing in the shower, choral singing offers abundant performance opportunities for the amateur vocalist. These guidelines should help you to get the most out of the experience:

WARM UP, ENERGIZE – Most choral singers arrive at evening rehearsals exhausted after a long day's work, so it's important to begin with stretching exercises to wake up the body. "Yawning" and relaxed vocal exercises gradually get the voice going.

THINK POSTURE – A "collapsed" posture limits

breathing capacity and stresses laryngeal muscles. Sit up, imagine the head floating directly above the pelvis, and keep the rib cage expanded. Raise the music to eye level and keep the shoulders relaxed, with both feet flat on the floor.

BREATHE – Many choral singers do not allow themselves an adequate breath and gasp for air to stay with the conductor's beat. Choral directors are aware of this and will indicate best breathing practice, but it is the singer's own responsibility to maintain breath support.

SING THE RIGHT PART – If you are uncomfortable singing in the required range and suspect that you are misplaced, request a change of part or help with vocal technique.

DON'T OVER-SING – Singing loudly in order to hear oneself over others usually stresses the voice, doesn't contribute well to a choral blend of sounds, and is usually resented by fellow singers. If you need to check the accuracy of your pitch, simply put a finger in one ear.

ARTICULATE WISELY – Enunciate clearly, but take care that the jaw, tongue, and lips remain as relaxed as possible in the articulation of consonants and vowels.

PREPARE YOUR MUSIC – Whenever possible, learn your part before coming to the rehearsal. If you are insecure about pitch, it is unlikely that you will sing well.

AVOID TALKING – Not only is chatting disruptive to others (especially the conductor), but it tires the voice.

TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF – Choral singing is like a team sport and you have a responsibility to safeguard your health. Avoid smoke and alcohol, get plenty of sleep and aerobic exercise. Drink plenty of fluids in order to reduce irritating phlegm.

TAKE VOICE LESSONS – If you want to maximise your enjoyment of choral singing, a few voice lessons can provide valuable insight.

Last note

Music is the only sensual pleasure without vice.

