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Frensham Heights

Overall our concert at this new venue last May was a success. It was certainly hugely popular with the audience who enjoyed the location and the facilities (as well as our music). I know there were teething problems for the choir with lining up, sightlines and the fact that the venue was very hot. Your committee will be trying to address these issues before we go there again in May 2018.

The acoustic is certainly different but at least we know what to expect next time. Having sat briefly at the back of the auditorium in rehearsal I can confirm that the sound for the audience is excellent – especially when heads are out of copies.

Calum's comment was that once he got used to the fact that, from where he was conducting, he couldn't actually hear the choir – it was fine!!

Come and Sing Day

By now you should all be aware that this is taking place on **Saturday 16th September** again at South Farnham School. Our first effort at such an event last year was extremely successful, not least because of the quantity of cake on offer. Can I put in a plea to all of you that are attending to please donate cake!

Calum will focus on Part 1 of Elijah and we shall also have our soloists working with us making this a really special Come & Sing. Spread the word amongst all your musically inclined friends (or even enemies).

There is a lot of work involved in making this an enjoyable and successful day and the sooner we have an idea of numbers the better. **Please return your booking slips as soon as possible – don't wait until the restart in September.**



General Choir Matters

CONCERT DRESS

Partly as a result of the hot conditions at Frensham Heights the Committee has discussed men's concert dress. We are proposing that in future men wear black open-necked shirts with jackets when appropriate. Hopefully this will make all you chaps more comfortable and help you to produce an even better sound.

SOPRANOS

Calum is concerned that we have too many first sopranos and is really looking for a better balance between firsts and seconds. He is suggesting that if you cannot sing a top B you should sing second soprano and if you cannot sing a top G then move to the altos. I know this will be a difficult decision for many as we none of us like to acknowledge that our voice has changed over time. However, in the interests of the overall sound of the choir I would urge you to think this over and act accordingly at the start of rehearsals in September. Registers will not be divided between firsts and seconds initially.

REHEARSAL ATTENDANCE

Calum is also concerned that people are missing too many rehearsals. This is something that the voice reps can easily keep an eye on by regular register checks and have a quiet word with people when they are at rehearsals. I am sure you are all keen to maintain and enhance our performance standards and this does require commitment. I'm also sure you would all agree it is only basic politeness to discuss with Calum any extended break you are taking. He will be able to suggest some homework that can be done!

REHEARSAL ETIQUETTE

There is often a lot of chatter at rehearsals when Calum is dealing with sections of the choir and not the whole choir. If Calum is not speaking directly to your voice part you should still be listening. It may be something that becomes relevant to you at some point or just a general musical point from which you can learn. It is also extremely impolite and distracting for Calum to have a lot of background muttering going on. It pains me to say that I think the sopranos are the main culprits so come on ladies – don't let me down next season!

Publicity

We will have some new publicity next season in the form of an 8-page booklet. This will cover the whole of the 2017-18 season with a page describing each of our concerts and other information. You will be able to pick up copies at the first few rehearsals in September and the booklets will be distributed locally, at other choirs' Come & Sing days, and to visitors at our own.

Our annual promotional display will be in the library for 2 weeks from 21st August. As well as making copies of the new booklet available this will also focus on our Come & Sing on 16th September and generally encourage new members to come along.

We try and have photographs taken at as many of our concerts as possible so that we always have up-to-date material for publicity purposes. If you do NOT consent to any photograph of you being used in this way please contact our website liaison, Alan Barber at barber.alan1@googlemail.com or our publicity officer David Brown at sigi.brown@btinternet.com

Our President

Many of you will be aware that our President Sir Jeffrey Tate died in early June. The Committee has discussed some potential replacements without reaching any conclusion. I think we would all like to appoint someone who would have some, if only occasional, involvement with the choir. If you have any suggestions regarding who we might invite to be our new President send them to me at benfield549@btinternet.com



New Season

Subscriptions for next season will be:

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| Individual | £95 |
| Two Family Members | £165 |
