

## “Spring has Sprung”

Welcome to the May edition of the Newsletter. Spring is here although you would never guess from the weather!

We are working hard rehearsing for our next set of concerts, the details of which are in the Dates or your Diary section.

Any ideas or submissions of items to be included will be gratefully received, as will any feedback. Please use the contact details in this newsletter or the website to let us know what you think.

Do you have any ideas for a social gathering? Let us know what sort of thing you would be interested in, and we will see what we can do.

## SPECIAL FEATURES

- **My Spirit Sang All Day!  
Review**
- **New Singers**
- **A Concert for The  
Parkinson's Disease  
Society**
- **Meet the Choir! Part 2**

## Regular Features

- **Website News**
- **Patrons**
- **Dates for your Diary**

## The Maia Singers;

**Director of Music:** John Pomphrey 0161 428 5456

**Administrator:** Lynda Whitney 0161 430 3899

**Newsletter:** David Haynes: [d\\_e\\_haynes@hotmail.com](mailto:d_e_haynes@hotmail.com)

## My Spirit Sang All Day!

### Concert Review

My Spirit Sang All Day was the uplifting title for our concert at St Michael and All Angels on the 4<sup>th</sup> April. The Singers performed the usual wide variety of musical styles ranging from Henry VIII to Stevie Wonder and were beautifully complimented by the talented young baritone Nicholas Bennett.



Nicholas is a young soloist born in Stockport and included 'If I Were a Rich Man' and 'Who is Sylvia' in the programme, which not only showed off his versatility but also his excellent baritone voice. He also joined the singers as the soloist in Aaron Copeland's stirring 'Boatmen's Dance'. Nicholas is a wonderful young singer who was warmly welcomed to our rehearsals, although we were a little unsure at first when he turned up in his motorbike helmet and leathers! We hope that Nicholas will be able to join us again in future concerts.

We received a very warm welcome at St Michaels and it was very enjoyable to sing to an appreciative and packed audience, and there were many compliments as we mingled with our guests during the interval.

## New Singers

We are very pleased to welcome the following new member to the Maia Singers:

**Rachael Smith** who has joined the 1<sup>st</sup> sopranos.

## Patrons

Why not become a patron of the Maia Singers  
Receive 1 concessionary ticket to a Maia Singers concert per year plus regular updates on all the choir news, all for £10 per year.

For additional details of the scheme and to become a patron, contact Lynda Whitney the Choir Administrator on 0161 430 3899.

## A Concert for The Parkinson's Disease Society

"We are having a concert on the 4<sup>th</sup> July which we have called 'Old and New' as it will be a mixture of music and readings from the Old and New Worlds to celebrate American Independence day. The proceeds from the concert will go to help people with Parkinson's Disease (PD).



<http://www.parkinsons.org.uk/>

PD is a progressive neurological disorder, which occurs when the cells in the substantia nigra area of the brain stop producing dopamine cells. In the U.K., around 10,000 people are diagnosed every year, and although most are over 60, it is estimated that one in 20 people are under 40 when diagnosed. Symptoms include tremor (in approx 70 % of patients), slowness of movement, rigidity, swallowing and speech difficulties, general pain, poor balance and extreme fatigue. There is no cure available yet and the reason for the dopamine cells dying off is still not known but research is taking place, and more money is needed which brings us back to the main reason for the concert.

We hope to have a relaxed, pleasant evening of music and readings from both sides of the 'pond' with half time refreshments. The music will be a mix of old and new, with readings interspersed between the songs and also some piano pieces.

Do come and bring your friends."

**Bob and Sue Docherty**

### Lotto Bonus Ball Draw

*Choir members; why not join the Bonus Ball Draw?  
For only £1 a week you stand a chance of winning  
the rolling kitty if your number is the Bonus Ball in  
the National Lotto game.*

## Website News

Don't forget that all the latest news is available on the website - [www.themaiaingers.co.uk](http://www.themaiaingers.co.uk)

The online shop is a useful source of funds for the choir. For every purchase made through the internet shop, we get a small percentage. It doesn't sound much when you are purchasing items, but it soon mounts up.

You can purchase all sorts of things from the online retailers connected to the shop from CDs to Travel Insurance, Holidays to Computers.

So far the Web Site shopping has contributed **over £90** to choir funds. Next time you are looking to buy on the internet, try the Maia shop first.

## Meet The Choir! Part 2

*it's amazing what you can find on the internet...*

"Why should singing different notes make people act differently?" Continuing the exploration of the sections of the choir, we now discuss the Altos.

**"THE ALTOS** are the salt of the earth - in their opinion, at least. Altos are unassuming people, who would wear jeans to concerts if they were allowed to. Altos are in a unique position in the chorus in that they are unable to complain about having to sing either very high or very low, and they know that all the other sections think their parts are pitifully easy. But the altos know otherwise. They know that while the sopranos are screeching away on a high A, they are being forced to sing elaborate passages full of sharps and flats and tricks of rhythm, and nobody is noticing because the sopranos are singing too loud (and the basses usually are too). Altos get a deep, secret pleasure out of conspiring together to tune the sopranos flat. Altos have an innate distrust of tenors, because the tenors sing in almost the same range and think they sound better. They like the basses, and enjoy singing duets with them - the basses just sound like a rumble anyway, and it's the only time the altos can really be heard. Altos' other complaint is that there are always too many of them and so they never get to sing really loud. "

**Next issue -The Tenors!**

## Dates for your Diary;

- **Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2009 7:30pm**  
**"Summer Songs" with the**  
**Stockport Youth Choir**  
Tickets; Adults £ 6, Children £ 2.50

**Please note the venue for this concert has changed to St Michaels and all Angels Bramhall**

- **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2009 7:30pm**  
**Old and New – A Concert in Aid of**  
**the Parkinson Disease Society**  
Heaton Moor United Reformed Church  
Tickets £7 including refreshments  
Available from Sue Docherty 0161 432 7893
- **Last Choir Rehearsal this Season**  
**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2009**
- **First Choir Rehearsal next Season**  
**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2009**