

Summer 2017 Newsletter



Come and Sing with us - Summer 2017



We'll be raising funds for organ repairs at Bournville Parish Church during our concert in their church on 15th July at 3 pm, with support from the church's organist, Trevor Workman, children from the choir and hand-bell ringers of Bournville Junior School (conducted by Claire Vaughan), and Bournville Strings (young Suzuki violinists) under the leadership of Lucy Akehurst so it should be an exciting and varied event!

Come and sing - The registration fee will be £35 so if you'd send your cheque to the Secretary by 9th April latest please (they won't be banked until after the first rehearsal), it will help us prepare the scores. Cheques should be made payable to Midlands Hospitals Choir and sent to Susan Buckingham at 12 Drew Road, Stourbridge DY9 0UZ.

There will be 13 rehearsals, starting on April 25th, including a Saturday at St Luke's Church on 24th June - no rehearsal on 30th May when James will be on tour in sunny Malta with Phoenix Singers!

Library Event

Anne Hornsby sang with us last Christmas, and was the instigator of inviting the choir to sing at Birmingham's Library on 11th March. All those singers who attended had a thoroughly good time singing songs from the World War I era.



Anne sent her thanks to Melissa, the MHC and Phoenix Singers for our participation at the 'Birmingham Children of War' event. She commented that "the singing was excellent. You all did a marvellous job. Our team of volunteers on the upper levels said that they could hear the songs clearly; so well done to you all. Thank you for fitting in our wartime songs into your busy repertoire, and for giving-up your weekend to support our project."



The 'Made in Birmingham' TV channel screened the highlights of the afternoon's activities within their lunchtime news slot on Monday 13th March.

Massed Choir - 6 pm Sunday 22nd April 2018



Singers from Birmingham Canoldir Male Choir, Phoenix Singers Birmingham and the Midlands Hospitals' Choir (that's a 'James' connection if ever we saw one!) along with members of the Uttoxeter Choral Society (musical director, Jakob Grubbström who we met at one of our March rehearsals), will be joined by children and young people from the choirs of Dodderhill School, Edgbaston High School for Girls and the Four Oaks Cluster Choir at a choral spectacular in Symphony Hall.

The main piece will be the English premiere of *Dewi Sant* by Karl Jenkins. This is an exciting work written for the Massed Youth Choirs of Wales, which James was a part of as a youth singer in 1999. It is a joyful, exciting and most accessible work. Accompaniment will be provided by Gemini Brass with 6 or 7 percussionists, violin and oboe players, organist and pianists.

Dewi Sant is a 30-minute work and so the choirs will also join forces for pieces such as *Zadok the Priest* and *I Was Glad* under James's baton.

Karl Jenkins would very much like to be involved with this event although his attendance is not guaranteed at this stage. However, if he does join us, we'd ask him to be a guest conductor in pieces like *Benedictus* from *The Armed Man* and *Adiemus* with the children's choirs.

Plans are very much in the early stage but we'll give you more news as and when it becomes available.

Put the date in your diary, and tell you family and friends to reserve the date too. This is an exciting opportunity to sing in Symphony Hall so do come and rehearse with us next Spring and join in the fun! Don't be put off by the prospect of endless Welsh (said James) - three movements are in Latin, one in English and three in Welsh (but it's only ever 3 or 4 Welsh words detached and repeated) along with other items of the choirs' favourite music. Rehearsal dates will be decided in the next few months and will be posted on our website www.midlandshospitalschoir.org.uk. Watch this space ...

Free Event

**Asklepios
Orchestra
Concert**

Alnæs - Marche Symphonique
Mascagni - Intermezzo Sinfonico
(from *Cavalleria Rusticana*)
Hoffmeister - Viola Concerto
Soloist: Lydia Handy
Beethoven - Symphony No 7
+++++

Conductor - Lee Armstrong
+++++

Holy Trinity Church,
The Lickey, B45 8RR

Sunday 9th April 2017, 7.30pm

Admission Free - Retiring Collection

The Asklepios Orchestra is an amateur orchestra, founded in 1969 at the Birmingham General Hospital where the orchestra originally rehearsed. However, following refurbishment of the General, the orchestra needed to move and now rehearses in the Medical School of the University of Birmingham in Edgbaston.

You might recognize some of the players from within the MHC!