



Phoenixsingers

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – 2018-19

This has been a year of significant change for Phoenix Singers. Since the last Annual General Meeting we have enjoyed our first season under the baton of Geoff Lavery as Music Director. Geoff will comment on the musical standards achieved in his own report, but it behoves me to make a comment about the leadership transition.

A year ago, there was some membership churn. Inevitably there are those people who dislike change and back away, and others who follow the person and not the organisation. Regrettably some such people left our number but as the year progressed and we delivered a successful first concert in December, the position began to stabilise. The reality is that many people are enjoying Geoff's leadership and we thank him for his endeavours on our behalf.

Secondly, at Easter. Alex Binns left his position at Bury St Edmunds Cathedral to take up one more senior at Derby and so had to relinquish his role as our accompanist. We welcomed Dominic Nunn as visiting accompanist for the summer term and after a number of successful rehearsals, were delighted that he agreed to take on the role permanently from this term. We welcome him and thank him while sending good wishes to Alex too.

Still on the subject of change, Drew Cantrill's departure meant that we were left without a person to provide the singing lessons funded through the Friends programme and Sir Robert Hitcham CEVAP School. In fact, we now have two people, Rob Gilden and Megan Peel teaching the Firebirds (boys) and Larks (girls) and while we have not been able to do much together in the past year, the plans for the future are structured such that we can regularly make the most of the opportunities afforded us by a Christmas Carol Concert. There are quite a few of us in the organisation who place great value on our support of the young people.

This year your committee has worked efficiently behind the scenes to ensure the smooth running of the organisation. As Chairman I want to pay tribute to their efforts and commitment, not least in a year when more than one of them has had to contend with not insignificant personal issues. The vision brought to bear on getting a carefully structured programme agreed for the foreseeable future, and on beginning to do some serious work on the governance of the organisation is time consuming and easily taken for granted.

There are other people too who contribute to the running of concerts and many of you play your part by contributing to receptions and raffles and by selling



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tickets. None should feel undervalued because all are part of the success of this organisation that we are proud to be a part of.

There are always opportunities to do more in support of Phoenix. It would be particularly beneficial if there was someone who has the IT skills necessary to work on, run and improve our website.

As Chairman I am excited by the future programme, gratified by the support of all of you and delighted to work with our musical leadership team, Geoff and Dom.

Finally, especial thanks must go to the following people as individuals, with an immediate and unreserved apology to any left out.

Barbara Howard – Secretary

Keith Barton – Treasurer

Peter Moorhouse – Vice Chairman and in charge of sponsorship, advertising and the Friends programme

Marion Kirton and Sarah Buckley – Catering co-ordination

Miranda Barclay and Liz Barton – Librarians

Giles Pebody – Publicity

Gill Clare – developing our future charitable events and working on matters of Governance

Linda Sherman – Programme proof reading and running the post-concert raffles

Colin Hamilton, Ray Fenning and others involved in post-concert bars

Tim Barker who provides our notice boards and gives technical assistance at concerts without any need to be asked

Jill Abbott, Susie Starke, Pauline Cobley and Brian Goodge, the section leaders

And then there are those of you who put out chairs for rehearsals week after week and just quietly do things.

Thank you all on behalf of you all.

William Glasse.
Chairman