



# Phoenixsingers

## Chairman's Report to the Annual General Meeting

This evening, we can look back on a vintage year for Phoenix Singers.

In November we showed how choral music can reflect a moment in time. 1914 set out to capture the conflicting strands of thought and feelings about war and our specially commissioned medley from David Overton provided a poignant centre piece which was both effective and widely appreciated by our audience.

We moved on, in March, to one of the most exciting pieces in the repertoire, Carmina Burana, rhythmic, wild and earthy. Accompanied by the terrific Bibby sisters and our percussion band, it was a thrilling experience both on the stage and in the audience.

We completed our year with what, for many choirs, might be seen as a clichéd and routine outing, opera choruses. But not for us, hard work at rehearsals, great accompaniment and a mesmerising soloist in Claire Weston saw us bring tears to the eyes of some of the audience with our Easter Hymn.

A great year for the choir and for our audience that is showing steady growth and great loyalty. Great also for our financial health, upon which Gill will report shortly.

So what's so good about Phoenix Singers? I have thought hard to try and work out which aspect of our work together is driving our progress. Is it the brilliant and rightly exacting musical direction? Is it the great admin work in running the choir and keep the finances in order? Is it the promotion and sponsorship? Is it our relations with our soloists, players and suppliers? Or is it the dedication of each of the singers who turn up and rehearse hard each week? I cannot choose and, you know me by now, a solid communitarian, neither should I. The truth is that the choir depends on each of us, here, and those who are not.

For the future, then, in a minute Gill will tell you that we are very well placed to back up our musical development with the resources to create some concerts into the future which can be a sea change in quality and interest. We will use our resources to improve every aspect of what we do. We are already confident that we can play our full part in the large scale spring concert at Snape, with Woodbridge Choral Society, and look forward, this time next year to the fortieth anniversary of the founding of Phoenix Singers and will be planning a look back over our history. Also in the concept stage is a come and sing day, in just over a year's time, for charity and as a vehicle to encourage new voices to join us, as well as support, through funds from Friends of Phoenix Singers, for singing lessons for young people in Framlingham, to breed a new generation of singers.

Exciting times.

I know that you will join me in extending a massive thank you to Drew and Geoff, our musical team.

I would also like to commend the committee to you: in random order: Liz, William, Amanda, Janet, Gill, Peter, Judith and Geraldine.

And especially, let me thank Juliette for her work organising the concert catering.

And then, please look around you at your fellow singers. Thank you all for making the Phoenix Singers what it is today and what it will be into the future.

**Giles Pebody**  
**Chairman**

**7<sup>th</sup> October 2015**