

GERONTIUS NEWSLETTER No. 4

Dear Singer

A few fresh emails and letters for your interest received since my last sending. Positively the last lot!!!

1. Feedback

From **Brian Kay**

Dear Jos

I mentioned, in my email, the impersonality of that kind of electronic communication. So this rather more personal note is to say again how profoundly grateful I am to have been involved in your outstanding SCCG. Last night's Gerontius really is one I shall never forget; my tenth and for so many reasons one apart. I am so grateful – my thanks and thanks again.

Brian

Dear Jos,

Congratulations and a big thanks you to you and your team for producing such an outstanding "Gerontius" on Saturday. A successful, happy and very memorable experience. Here's to the next time

Tessa (Sullivan-Thornbury CS)

From **Brian Kay – again!**

I am still finding it impossible to let the performance go - perhaps it never will!

I have also had no end of positive reaction from people, including my Burford lot, who were so thrilled to be part of it and just loved the whole thing.

If you are thinking seriously about Bach, then there are many points I would like to make, as there are inevitably pitfalls to consider very carefully, whichever way you decide.

One thing is certain: should you require me to be involved again, it would give me the greatest pleasure.

All best, Brian.

Dear Jos

I want to add my thanks to those of others for the truly wonderful experience of performing The Dream of Gerontius in Gloucester Cathedral. Thank you to all who had a hand in organising the event and working so hard to bring it together. It was a joy to take part and a very moving performance.

Best wishes

Fiona (Chandler – Wycliffe CS)

Jos

I read with interest and pride the comments and congratulations you received after Gerontius last Saturday. Not sure I can add anything but agree with all.

To have the opportunity to perform this incredible work in Gloucester Cathedral was a privilege and with such a marvellous group of musicians. I enjoyed the rehearsals with Chris too and Brian Kaye is amazing!

I hope to be part of The Berlioz as haven't done it before.

You should be so pleased with what you achieved. Many, many thanks

Liz Fleming (Cirencester CS)

*From **Philip Holtam***

Dear Jos,

Many thanks for your email and kind words. What a night!

Thank you so much for inviting me to sing with you and to be part of what was, indeed, a very special occasion!

Congratulations to you and your team for presenting such a wonderful concert - your organisational skills are second to none and your efforts are in equal parts to all the performers who made the event such a memorable one.

Brian has been in touch, as I'm sure he has been with you too, and was delighted with the performance. Diana told me she has performed Gerontius on 10 occasions and this was the best one ever!!

I shall have a look at the Berlioz and let you know. I've already had a listen on youTube and it's certainly suitable for my voice. I have worked with Adrian Partington on many occasions and he is very familiar with my voice. I also know Paul Nilon very well and so I'm sure we can convince Adrian to make the right choice!! I shall put April 29th 2017 in my diary.

Very best wishes to you both and please pass on my gratitude and congratulations to all the singers from all the choral societies involved. I'm only too aware of the tremendous hard work they, and their music teams, had put into the project.

With kind regards,

Phil

Jos,

Thank you so very much for setting it all up ! I can't believe how wonderful and awe inspiring it was to be a part of Saturday night. What a privilege to be there.

*One very grateful Alto,
Sorrel Warwick (Stroud CS)*

From [Quentin Hayes](#)

Dear Jos,

Thank you for your kind email. Yes Saturday's concert was special- a fitting tribute to your late mother.

Elgar has a special place in my affections as I went to school at Malvern College and both my father and grandfather are buried in Malvern Cemetery. My wife sat through the Dream of Gerontius in Wells Cathedral when heavily pregnant. My elder son apparently became very animated inside her during the concert.

Well done to one and all for Saturday's concert and a big thank you to you for organising it so well. These concerts don't happen by themselves!

Yes , I do sing the B Minor and Matthew Passion still so let's hope that Brian thinks so also.

With best wishes and sincere thanks,

Quentin

Dear Jos

I want to say a big thank you for allowing me to sing in such a wonderful performance of such an absolutely wonderful work. I found Brian Kay just inspirational and he knew what he wanted from the choir but he achieved it by gentle means which was a very pleasant change. I too thought Diana Moore's voice was marvellous, her diction and expressiveness with the text was outstanding. Quentin's voice was superb but I am a little biased as he is my teacher!. and Philip the Tenor dealt with such a huge and demanding part marvellously. For me to sing in Gloucester Cathedral with three good choirs and professional orchestra and singers was a glorious experience.

I also want to thank you for treating me as a choral singer and not as a handicapped person while allowing me to bring along my wretched music stand!

Generally people were very kind. Even in 2016 you'd be surprised at the attitudes that some people hold towards the disabled.

I would love to join you all again for the Berlioz, both performance and workshop.

Lastly but by no means least I thought how well the committee organised everything, it was a huge undertaking very impressive and everything was done with good nature.

Thanks to everyone

Yours sincerely

Mary Ludbrook (Cirencester CS)

Dear Jos

I opened my email this morning to send you my thanks for the fantastic job you did in getting Gerontius up and running, culminating in Saturday's great experience. Then I saw your newsletter and discovered that all the things I wanted to say have already been said most fulsomely. All I can do is add my name at the foot of every message that you have received!

Back in the 1980s my wife and I sang Gerontius for the first time, usually with organ accompaniment. When we were approaching our first orchestra-accompanied performance we discovered how electrically different that was. At the first rehearsal, we were rather cramped for space and the percussion session was just a couple of feet behind the sopranos. My wife was within touching distance of Diggory Seacombe and was not prepared for that almighty cymbal clash which came from just behind her. She remembers that well!

With best wishes

Franklyn Bovey (Wycliffe CS)

Hi Jos

Thanks for sending the feedback from Brian Kay and others. I'd been meaning to contact you all weekend but hadn't had the opportunity to add my thanks to you for your hard work in arranging such a fabulous event. I've been singing in choirs since I was eight years old and feel that Saturday's concert was my absolute highlight!

Thank you very much and here's to the next 'Big Sing'.

Hope you can now have a well-earned rest!

Best wishes

Catherine Bennett (Tyndale CS)

Jos

I wholeheartedly agree with all the messages. It was a truly wonderful, in fact overwhelming, experience. Thank you so much for all the months of hard work you put in. Incidentally,

All best wishes and have a restful Summer

Julian Plested (Wycliffe CS)

Jos Gregson

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