

GERONTIUS NEWSLETTER No. 3

Dear Singer

This will be the final Newsletter before we all sing Elgar's Dream of Gerontius on Saturday 11th June. I hope that everyone enjoyed the superb Workshop that Brian Kay took on Saturday 4th of June. It was great to all get together for the first time and also to be joined by the really excellent Burford Singers semi-chorus..

1. Venue

The Cathedral is very well signed with brown "Cathedral" signs and a simplified picture of the Cathedral. Follow these and they will lead you via the inner ring road to Westgate Street where you will turn in off the ring road. There is a very large car park on the left as you enter Westgate Street. Park your car and come out of the car park, turn left and walk about 400 yards up Westgate Street, turn left into the Cathedral Close.

2. Parking

There is a small amount of parking in the Cathedral Close, you need to drive carefully onto the pedestrianised area of Westgate Street. Our allocation of all-day tickets is very limited and these have gone but I do have a number of evening tickets left from our allocation so see me at rehearsals if you would like one. All disabled parking spaces allocated to us have also been taken up so if you require parking in the Close bring your blue badge.

3. Change of timing

Brian now only wants 1½ hours with the choir, soloists and orchestra. We are due to start the rehearsal at 1.00pm so you will be finished by 2.30pm. Please be at the Cathedral in good time. This shorter rehearsal time will help those who live fairly locally and can return home. He will work with the soloists and orchestra thereafter until around 4.00pm when the Cathedral is needed for Evensong.

The Concert Manager wants us to gather by 6.30pm to form up and take our places.

4. Tickets

We have now sold a substantial number of the main nave seats. If you require more tickets please see Ian Stewart (Stroud), Alison Makepeace (Thornbury), Catherine Bennett (Tyndale) or Rosemary Robinson (Wycliffe). I also have a supply. On concert day we will have a sales table in the back of the Cathedral with all the unsold tickets together including the unsold remainder of those being sold by Gloucester Cathedral Box Office.

5. Green Room

As you come off Westgate Street you will see the South Door more or less ahead of you. Go slightly to the left of this to pass the West Door and go into the Parliament Suite, there will be signs directing you to the suite, up a flight of stairs and into the suite. Ladies changing facilities will be signed to the room on the left, the centre room will have tables set up in it for people to have a sit down, eat sandwiches etc. and the Men's changing facilities will be in the slightly smaller room on the right. Squash and water will be available all day.

6. Dress on the day

For the concert we will be wearing black – dinner jackets, white shirt and black bow-tie for the men, long black skirt or trousers for the ladies with black tops and at least three-quarter length sleeves

7. Scores

There will be boxes for returning hired scores in the Cathedral to the left of the pulpit and also in the Parliament Suite. If you have hired a score from the SCCG please be sure to return it. I am going away on the Tuesday after the concert and do not want to spend Sunday chasing up scores. You will be expected to deliver the scores to me on the Sunday if you fail to return them. My plan is to return them to Thornbury Library on Monday 13th first thing in the morning!

8. Eve-of-concert Rehearsal

There will be an eve-of-concert rehearsal at The Marling School, Cainscross Road, Stroud GL5 4HE. This will run from 7.30pm – 9.30pm and attendance is mandatory. This will be the opportunity for Brian to finalise the layout and for the Concert Manager and Assistant Concert Manager to work on plans to get on and off the stage. If for reasons of death, fire or flood you cannot possibly make this rehearsal it is absolutely essential that you advise the Concert Manager David Joyce (Tel. 01454-260542, email: davidjoyce@doctors.org.uk) and appoint someone from your voice part to reserve a space for you.

9. Concert Folders

All singers apart from Stroud Choral Society will use Thornbury Choral Society's maroon folders. Stroud are asked to bring their own folders which approximate to the same colour.

10. Website

Keep an eye on our website www.sccg.info to see if the information that interests you is already posted. We will make every effort to post any urgent information there.

Jos Gregson

Chairman South Cotswold Big Sing

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6th June 2016