

SOUTH COTSWOLD CHORAL GROUP (SCCG)

BIG SING 2016 NEWSLETTER No. 1

After performances of the Verdi Requiem in 2011 and the Sea Symphony concert in 2013 a committee consisting of the Chairmen of Stroud, Thornbury, Tyndale, Wycliffe and Yate Choral Societies have been considering which work to perform for our next joint Big Sing in 2016.

After consultation with their committees Elgar's The Dream of Gerontius proved to be the unanimous choice and the committee is looking into booking Tewkesbury Abbey for June 2016.

The committee also selected Brian Kay to be the conductor for the performance. Brian also runs his own orchestra, the Cotswold Chamber Orchestra, and it is probable that this will be the orchestra selected to accompany the performance, subject, of course, to the price quoted.

Fundraising for the 2016 event is already under way. On **June 14th 2014** Nigel Perrin will run a workshop for the SCCG on Bach's St John Passion at The Castle School, Thornbury. Please come and support this venture, booking forms have already been distributed to all 7 choirs in the SCCG or may be downloaded from the excellent SCCG website www.SCCG.info.

On **18th April 2015** Brian Kay will run a Workshop on Elgar's The Dream of Gerontius at The Marling School, Stroud. Booking forms for this will be posted on the SCCG website as soon as the 2014 Workshop is over.

The **June 2016 Big Sing** (June 18th or 25th have been applied for) will be widely advertised and we hope to attract a large audience to Tewkesbury Abbey for the performance. We will be looking for a balanced choir of 50 sopranos, 50 altos, 20 tenors and 30 basses. Brian Kay has offered to supply the semi-chorus from his Burford Singers, this is under consideration. You will be advised as soon as the date is confirmed with Tewkesbury Abbey.

For future plans we are looking at performing the massive Berlioz Requiem Op. 4, the Grande Messe des Morts for our 2018 Big Sing and Adrian Partington has kindly agreed to lead us through this amazing work and will also run a workshop for us in 2017 on the work.

So for your diaries the SCCG future programme is as follows:-

14th June 2014 J.S.Bach St John Passion Workshop conducted by Nigel Perrin at The Castle School, Thornbury 10am-5pm accompanied by David Bednall

18th April 2015 Elgar The Dream of Gerontius Workshop conducted by Brian Kay at The Marling School, Stroud accompanied by Robin Baggs

18th or 25th June 2016 Elgar The Dream of Gerontius performance conducted by Brian Kay at Tewkesbury Abbey probably with the Cotswold Chamber Orchestra

April 2017 Berlioz Requiem Workshop conducted by Adrian Partington at The Marling School, Stroud

June 2018 Berlioz Requiem performance conducted by Adrian Partington in Gloucester Cathedral. (Gloucester Cathedral will be the probable choice as Tewkesbury Abbey found the forces required for the 2006 performance of the Berlioz Requiem conducted by Martin Brabbins too large for the Abbey!)

Looking forward to singing with you all over the next few years!

Jos Gregson

Chairman Big Sing 2016

27-2-14