



Phoenixsingers

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – 2021-22

The 2021-22 Season began amidst great uncertainty about the way the pandemic would develop and how it might affect Phoenix Singers during the season. In the event, three concerts were presented as planned. The first was decimated by a wave of COVID infections reducing the choir and audience in similar proportions. The Spring and Summer concerts were less eventful but COVID certainly left its mark on them both.

The other circumstance to add to the concerns of us all was the increasingly obvious pain suffered by our Music Director, Geoff Lavery early in 2022 and his sudden disappearance when urgent surgery became vital. We welcomed Tom Appleton to stand in for Geoff and were grateful indeed for his enthusiasm and willingness to do all he could for us.

The Music Director's Report comments fully on the three concerts and I commend those comments to you. It is pointless to repeat them. However, I must record my thanks on behalf of the Society to Geoff Lavery, Tom Appleton, Dominic Nunn and Carolyn Macer for their musical leadership and for working together such that we never cancelled a rehearsal due to being unable to find musical leadership for it.

The coming Season will present us with more challenges. We know already that COVID has not 'gone away' and in any case, respiratory ailments are always a problem for singers; we will cope with what comes, as before. We also foresee financial hurdles to clear as our costs rise and all of us face more expensive lives generally. We will make adjustments as we are able to control losses and protect Phoenix for the longer term, but in all probability, any alterations are more likely to be manifest in 2023-24 and thereafter.

I am able to share optimism about our resilience for two very good reasons. First, your Committee has always understood to the necessity for financial reserves to protect the Society from lean times; their foresight means that now we are not forced into 'knee-jerk' reactions but have space to be measured and sensible. Please be generous spirited in your gratitude to the Committee Members and particularly our past and present Treasurers, Gill Clare and Keith Barton who are the architects of our stability as a Society.

Secondly, you, the Members of Phoenix Singers are generous too. While noting that it has been very difficult to sell tickets for concerts in the aftermath of the pandemic's worst effects, you have risen to two challenges. Some of you have shown clear commitment to the future by overpaying your subscriptions this year and many more have not claimed the 'early-bird' discount we offer. A very



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heartening response that has not gone unnoticed by the Committee. Some of you were most generous to the Friends Programme last Season showing even more clearly that Phoenix Singers is investing in a future generation of singers by its support of the Sir Robert Hitcham's Firebirds.

Phoenix Singers is about the people who comprise it. It is good to have been able to welcome new Singers in the last year and for this Season. Some faithful people have decided to retire and we thank them sincerely for friendship and commitment, in some cases, over many years almost since the Society was founded.

On a personal note, thank you for your support for my efforts on your behalf. It is greatly appreciated. Aside from the people mentioned already, thank you to everyone who makes Phoenix Singers work and be the welcoming, happy family that it is.

William Glasse
Chairman

September 2022