

Phoenix Singers' Friends

The Phoenix Singers' friends programme was set up a number of years ago to help to forge closer links with our regular audience and supporters and to provide some additional financial support to the choir as we strengthened our reserves and broadened our concert aspirations.

Under Drew Cantrill's musical direction, we also started a relationship with Sir Robert Hitcham's Primary School to help them establish and develop junior choirs – firstly the Firebirds boys' choir and subsequently the Larks girls' choir. Kate Mawson (head of music) and Helen Picton (head) – and most importantly the boys and girls – have been very grateful for our financial support for and musical interest in this important initiative over the last few years – and we have also benefitted from having the junior choirs sing with us and parents joining our audiences. We have funded regular singing lessons at the school with the proceeds from the Friends programme and, in this small but important way, have potentially helped to find and stimulate the choral singers of the future.

Following the pandemic outbreak, the Firebirds and Larks fell silent – as did we — but are now back and are starting singing lessons as a new mixed choir under the leadership of their energetic teacher Megan Peel and with regular workshops with singer/chorus director Rob Gildon – and we are planning to have the young singers sing in our Christmas concert in December.

William and Peter met with Kate and Helen at the primary school recently and the Phoenix committee is keen to continue and widen our support for this important initiative for the choral singers of the future. We are now looking to provide circa £2,000 per annum from Friends' subscriptions to fund regular lessons and workshops with Megan and Rob. We are all involved in supporting this programme as active members of the Phoenix Singers – but please consider signing up as a Friend (or encouraging others to do so) – suggested annual Friends subscriptions are £25 per person or £50 per couple/family, but all amounts will be very welcome indeed – and, on behalf of the young singers and their school, thank you for your support.

Please get in touch to support or for more information – at peterjmoorhouse@gmail.com

Thank you

Peter