

Chairman's Report

Little did we think, at the start of our season in September, that we should only be able to perform one concert, and that we would not see each other, or sing together for so long. When history comes to be written, 2020 will be remembered as one of the landmark dates, as the world battles against Covid 19. However, I will not dwell on that, because, in fact this past season should be remembered for the positives.

We started our year, our seventy first, buoyed up with the joy of the previous year's celebrations, and continued in that vein with our first concert in December with performances of Beatus Vir and Saint Nicholas. It was an excellent concert, with the added dimension of our Young Singers, who, as usual, performed with great skill and enthusiasm. Thank you to them and to Eileen, and of course to David for his indefatigable skill, hard work and commitment.

Sadly, of course, we had to cease rehearsals for St. John Passion on March 11th. and start to experience the loss of being able to make music together, as well as all the other emotions which lockdown brought. Nevertheless, although physically distant, we have been kept going by the amazing work of Eileen and Peter Watson, with their weekly communication, and the many brilliant contributions from you, to brighten our dark hours. It has demonstrated a great commitment to the Society from you all, and I cannot express my thanks sufficiently.

Whilst the whole committee has not met since March, Sheena, Eileen and I have been in regular contact with each other and David. Sheena has prepared the balance sheet, which you will find enclosed with all the reports. Many thanks as ever to her. This needs to be completed and signed off for the Charity Commissioners, but an Annual General Meeting does not need to take place at this time, therefore the present committee and officers will remain for the time being.

We shall, of course, continue to monitor the situation, in which we have been greatly helped by Making Music.

As far as next season goes, we originally decided that we would continue with our agreed programme as envisaged for this year, and engage the same artists. That decision has not changed, and so we do have a plan, albeit pencilled in at this stage.

Therefore, all we can do is to try to continue to stay safe, and ensure that we are ready to bring this extraordinary time in our lives to an end, whenever that may be. As I have said before, we shall sing together again, and what a great joy that will be.

Christine Alder.