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|  | Email:  | AyrChoral@outlook.com |
| July 2020 |  |  |
|  |  Tel: | 01292 265639 |

Dear Members

**Season 2020 – 2021**

The year 2020 has been one of many changes some large and some small. This Start of Season letter is one of the smaller ones! Usually the letter is issued in August but our rehearsals for at least the first part of the season will be different this year and registration and payment of subscriptions will for the majority be done online so it is important that information is known as soon as possible.

We were so near our performance of *Messiah* but for many of us the online Zoom rehearsals became a welcome highlight to Tuesday evenings in May. The virtual recording of The Road Home was in some measure compensation for our abruptly curtailed season. It was an amazing technological achievement and the inspiring result due entirely to Andy’s expertise and enthusiasm.

Building on this success, we have an exciting season ahead. Musical Director Andy McTaggart will be leading us through new and challenging online rehearsals with Mendelssohn’s *Von Himmel Hoch*, Rheinberger’s *Ave Regina* and *Angelis Suis*, ,together with Will Todd’s *My Lord is Come* before returning to *Messiah* in preparation for an online Concert in October. Andrew Forbes, who has accompanied our singing on both organ and piano, has recorded the accompaniment for the online rehearsals and there will be vocal coaching from our wonderful soloists, Catriona Hewitson, Penelope Cousland, Ted Black and Colin Murray.

These Tuesday evening rehearsals will be open to guests who will register and pay for the opportunity to sing with Ayr Choral. The rehearsals will be at 7.30pm. Music packs will be distributed to all who register. This includes all Ayr Choral members.

 Our new Associate Conductor Nils Meier will not be joining us until January as he is not expecting to return to Glasgow from Germany for some weeks yet.

The **Autumn Concert** on Sunday 25th October will be an online Come and Sing *Messiah*. It is hoped that it will be possible to record a small orchestra for this purpose.

Plans are afoot for a **Christmas Concert** but the eventual results depend on Covid-19 restrictions being eased.

The **Spring Concert 2021** will be a performance of Haydn’s *Creation*.

**Rehearsal Schedule 2020**

Online in a Zoom meeting room. Links will be emailed before 25th August.

**Autumn Concert**

Tuesday 25th August to Tuesday 29th September at 7.30 p.m. Mendelssohn, Rheinberger, Todd

Tuesday 13th October to Tuesday 20th October at 7.30p.m. Messiah revision

Sunday 25h October Online concert.

**Christmas Concert** **TBC**

**2021 Spring Concert Haydn’s** *Creation* **TBC**

**ACU Registration for membership and subscription for 2020-21**

There is no increase in the subscription fee of £95 per annum this season. There is still the option for the half yearly subscription of £50.

This year you are being asked to register your membership and pay subscriptions before the 25th August (First online rehearsal) By doing this you will ensure that you can take part in these rehearsals. The registration form is attached to this email. It will also help keep membership records up to date.

For ease of administration you are also encouraged to pay your fee by bank transfer.

Arrange a bank transfer of £95 from your account to ACU’s bank account:

**Sort code 80-08-53,** **Account number 00133978.**

**IMPORTANT:**

You **MUST** put your name in the reference box as this is the only way our Treasurer will know from whom the money came.

When you have carried out the bank transfer please inform the Treasurer Jim Dunlop by email (dunlopmck@btinternet.com ) so that he can track ACU’s bank statements.

**Cheque payment** should be sent with registration form to ACU, 4 Hillfoot Crescent, Ayr KA7 3LG.

Those who cannot access Zoom will be sent the music packs and rehearsal music on CDs. It is imperative that everyone continues to enjoy singing by whatever means they can.

**Concert ticket sales**

Sheila Adams is our ticket administrator. As Covid-19 restrictions recede you will be informed about plans for ticket sales.

**New Members**

We are always happy to welcome new members to the choir. Please encourage anyone who may be interested or wish to return to try the online rehearsals in the meantime.

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| **Musical Director** |  Andy McTaggart |  |  |
| **Accompanist** |  Morag Walton |  |  |

**Assistant Conductor** Nils Meier

**Committee Members 2020-21**

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| **President** | Kate Wilson |
| **Vice President** | Margaret Crankshaw |
| **Treasurer** | Jim Dunlop |
| **Secretary** | Marion Andrews |
| **Concert Administrator** | Kevin Watt |
| **Librarian** | Andrew Duffin |

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| **Section Reps** |  |  |  |
| **Soprano** | Barbara Girvin  |  |  |
|  | Linda Somerville |  |  |
| **Alto** | Margaret Mowat |  |  |
|  | Anne McIntosh |  |  |
| **Tenor** | Colin Duncan |  |  |
| **Bass** | Alasdair Smith |  |  |
| **Other posts** |  |  |  |
| **Budgets** | Colin Duncan |  |  |
| **Accounts** | Yvonne Lui |  |  |
| **Ticket Administrator** | Sheila Adams |  |  |

**Friends Administrator** David Reader

**Making Music Rep**: Margaret Crankshaw

**Advertising/Marketing** Margaret Crankshaw (interim)

Press Liaison Margo Reader

Flyer DistributionHelen Hepburn

**Sponsorship** Sandra Watson

**Website** Sandra Watson

Assistant Hannah Curry

As always if you have any questions or concerns please contact me. AyrChoral@outlook.com

I look forward to seeing you again in the new season.

With best wishes

Marion Andrews

ACU Secretary