

A Summer Message from the Sun Lounging Chair - August 2018

As this amazing summer continues to delight us with such beautiful weather, greetings to all choir members and friends!

This summer newsletter is just to remind you of what is in store for EPMS once the new season gets underway in September. The Committee has not been idle through the summer break, and I would like to let you know of a couple of areas in which we have been busy.

Firstly we have been reviewing the position on **patrons, both private and commercial**. You will know that we already have a good number of private patrons (to whom we say a big thank you!), but our commercial patrons have fallen by the wayside, and we have decided that it is time to have a drive to encourage new sponsorship. Our focus is on local Ellesmere Port businesses, rather than large national organisations, and in August some of the Committee will spend a day or two approaching businesses in Ellesmere Port to explain the benefits of sponsoring EPMS! If any of you know of any businesses that might like to sponsor us, then please pass on the Patrons' Flyer which is attached here and drop a line to patrons@epmsonline.co.uk. Sandie Rowlands, our Patrons' Secretary, will then follow up.

And if you know anyone, friend or family member, whom you think might consider joining the exclusive EPMS patrons' club, then please encourage them, and again drop a note to patrons@epmsonline.co.uk, and Sandie will contact them when we start the new season.

Secondly, you will remember that I sent out an email in April asking you for ideas and suggestions for fund-raising. Your response to the tentative suggestions made was great, and the ideas that came through have been really helpful to the Committee putting together some fund-raising **social activities** for next season. Here's a flavour:

- **Improve your sight reading:** 13th October 2018 and a second in late January 2019
- **'Indigo May' – Julie Kench and Meinir Ann Thomas:** March 2019
- **Gin Tasting:** November 2018
- **Christmas Carol Concert and Social:** Sat 15th December, venue Trinity Methodist, Ellesmere Port.
Note change of date here, which will allow us to have a dedicated rehearsal after the December concert

There are a few other events and ideas in the pipeline, including EPMS-branded shopping bags for that special Christmas present for all your friends and family, and of course we will have the usual pre-Christmas and Easter produce stalls, which always raise a good sum!!

The committee has decided to increase the annual subscription to £100 for the 2018/19 season, which will help with funds for the concert season ahead.

The new season begins on Monday 3rd September, when we will start rehearsals to the December concert (flyer attached), featuring Haydn's Nelson Mass as the centrepiece. We will be joined by our new accompanist Stephen Reynolds, whom I am sure you will all make very welcome.

Then of course we are planning a joint concert with Lloyd's Wilmslow-based Barnby Choir, to perform Orff's Carmina Burana in April 2019. This will be a major undertaking, and we hope that the EPMS programme for this coming season will attract some new members to swell our numbers. Encourage your musical friends to come along and join us in September!

I would also like to let you know now that the EPMS AGM will be held on Monday 24th September, after a shortened rehearsal. I would very much like someone to take the role of Registrar from me at the AGM. It is not an arduous job, and does not necessarily have to be a committee position, so if you think you might be interested and want to know more then please do speak to me at the start of the season.

The program for the coming season is attached. Please do forward it to anyone who might be interested, either in coming to a concert or indeed coming to sing with us.

Please also note that the attachments here, and more, are on www.epmsonline.co.uk.

And finally, with the Registrar hat on, I will be emailing everyone a couple of weeks before we start, just to confirm your details and let you know about payment methods for the annual subscriptions.

In the meantime, enjoy the rest of this delightful summer.

Regards

Marian McCarthy
Chair, EPMS