

Chair's Report on 2009

Many thanks to all choir members and committee members and to Sue, our Musical Director, for their enthusiasm, energy and commitment through the year, which contributed to a very successful year in 2009.

We did more performances – as well as our 3 own end of term concerts, Southwark Cathedral Songs of Praise, choir contribution to the scratch Rutter performance at the Albert Hall in the summer, a performance at the Bermondsey Street Festival, the Guys and St Thomas Charity Trust concert in Southwark Cathedral and carols in Trafalgar Square. That makes 8, and it looks as if we may top that in 2010 as we have already done one performance at the Southwark Arts Forum AGM in the Biscuit Factory, and have the opportunity to perform at the opening of the John Bull arch at the Blue in Bermondsey later this month. All performances have been very well received.

We were more musically ambitious. We tackled Mozart and Britten. We formed the RBCS Chamber Orchestra and did our first performance. We'll have the orchestra with us again at our spring concert in 2010 and we are hoping to perform the UK premiere of an Australian work (Percussion Mass by Paul Sarcich) in the summer term.

We had more members, well over 30 members in the autumn term. Bigger numbers are good as they give us a wider choice of repertoire and a greater ability to field groups to do additional performances, as well as being more sociable and bringing in more income. So we encourage new members at all times.

We provided solo singing opportunities for choir members who auditioned and sang at two of the concerts. Well done to all those who rose to the challenge. There will be further solo opportunities in the future.

We worked harder at our publicity for concerts and for singers through posters, flyers and emails and won ourselves a higher profile locally, and a bigger audience for spring and winter performances. Sadly numbers were a bit low for the summer term concert.

We strengthened our organisational capability:

- we were successful in securing grant funding, and will apply for more in 2010
- we're in the process of transferring control of our bank account from Time & Talents (where it has been for historical reasons), and will get down to some financial planning in the coming months
- we had our first go at a 12 month repertoire plan (and hope to get more input from members for that when we do the next plan in May)
- we have invested in scores, which we hire out to choir members
- we've been producing an information sheet and a rehearsal plan at the beginning of every term so that we all know what's happening
- we've been making more use of email and the website.

So once again, thanks to all members and supporters and especially to Sue. Let's look forward to an even more successful year in 2010.

Clare Birks
Chair
2 March 2010