



The community choir for Rotherhithe & Bermondsey, where local people come together to sing

The RBCS Trustees' Report February 2018 AGM

Thank you to all our supporters

The biggest thank you to Sue Heath Downey, our Musical Director. On waves of her energy and commitment, coaxing and support, we scaled yet more musical heights. Thanks also to St Mary's and St Peter's churches in Rotherhithe and St James church in Bermondsey for providing wonderful performance spaces, to Time and Talents for rehearsal space and to our patrons and sponsors Simon Hughes and Prem Goyal. And of course, we wouldn't have a choir without singers, who not only sing but provide the choir with all sorts of support in kind and unpaid work. We are very grateful.

What we achieved

We staged three concerts, one with orchestra and two with professional soloists. We glided harmonically and rhythmically through the post-Romantic and modern periods in music, singing Faure's Requiem (1888), Carl Orff's Carmina Burana (1937), Poulenc's Christmas Motets (1952) and Howard Goodall's Eternal Light (2008). We ran a Come and Sing Carmina Burana workshop as our contribution to international Make Music Day 21 June, sang at the Illuminate Rotherhithe event on 23 November, and carolled an hour away under the Christmas Tree in Trafalgar Square on 21 December where we collected well over £100 in donations for the Antony Nolan charity.

RBCS online – do join in

Printed posters and flyers are essential publicity, and it's great to see choir posters up on noticeboards around the area. However, a presence online is also essential. We have the choir website www.rbc-s-choir.org.uk, full of useful information. We post events on www.nextdoor.com and on the Making Music website www.makingmusic.org.uk. We have a presence on twitter @rbc-s-choir and on Facebook www.facebook.com/rbc-s-choir, which extend the choir's network of supporters. It's lovely to see more and more singers, friends and family connecting with the choir in this way.

Membership of Making Music

The choir continues to be a member of the national association for amateur music, Making Music, which keeps us up to date with good practice. RBCS was represented at the Making Music AGM in June and the Making Music Council meeting in October. All choir members can register with the Making Music website www.makingmusic.org.uk to sign up for their events, support campaigns and use their resources.

Looking forward to 2018

In 2018, we are going for contrast from Bach's St John Passion, passionate baroque, this term to Bernstein's West Side Story in the summer. We hope that all our singers will enjoy the variety and challenge!

From the RBCS Trustees 2017

Clare Birks (Chair), John Hawthorne (Treasurer), Steve Hodges (Secretary), Penny Barrett, Emily Clemo, Lynette Thornton and Margaret Robinson.