



The community choir for Rotherhithe & Bermondsey, where local people come together to sing
The RBCS Trustees' Report March 19th March 2019 AGM

Thank you to all our supporters

First and foremost our thanks go to our Musical Director Sue Heath Downey whose passion and enthusiasm enabled our relatively small choir achieve high class performances with ever more challenging music. We congratulate Sue in the year of RBCS' 20th anniversary. We want to express a special thank you to John Hawthorne, who has been our dedicated treasurer for the past 5 years and who took great care in training Clare as the new Treasurer. We thank Margaret Robinson who has improved our library systems considerably. Thanks also to the three local churches: St Mary's, St Peter's and St James, all of which have been our concert venues for many years. Thank you Times and Talents for our rehearsal home.

Thank you to our Patrons: Sir Simon Hughes and especially Prem Goyal, who had been also a kind donor of the choir. Prem now has stepped down now since he undertook new responsibilities in the City of London.

Thank you to all choir members as well as their families for faithfully attending performances and volunteering with jobs (special thanks to Kevin and Oscar) and donating food and wine at our concerts.

What we achieved

In 2018 we staged three concerts: Bach's St John Passion at Easter, West Side Story in the summer (marking the centenary of composer Leonard Bernstein's birth) and at Christmas Charpentier's Messe de Minuit with "Wassail", a jolly arrangement of traditional English songs by Alexander L'Estrange. St John Passion was a massive work and we managed to deliver it well and with great enthusiasm. Members of the audience congratulated us on the Charpentier's dancelike piece especially.

RBCS and the local community

In November, for the second year running, we have taken part in the local community event "Illuminate Rotherhithe" commemorating the sailing of the "Mayflower" to the New World. We performed alongside artists and musicians based in our neighbourhood. The event was very popular and very well attended. It has to be stressed, that our concerts are free, so accessible to everyone. As a community choir, we welcome anyone who likes singing, as no auditions are required.

We are a friendly community always happy to see new faces.

RBCS online Membership of Making Music

We are on website www.rbc-s-choir.org.uk, Twitter account @rbc-s-choir
www.facebook.com/rbc-s-choir/

The choir is a member of a national organisation Making Music which, apart from keeping us up to date with good practice, is also an advertising platform for our concerts. As a member of the choir, you can register with Making Music website to follow information about concerts and music courses www.makingmusic.org.uk

Our plans for 2019

On the 13th of April we will sing a wonderful German Requiem by Brahms and the summer concert will feature Vaughan Williams " Five English Folk Songs". We may also attempt some folk songs in Polish!

From the RBCS Trustees 2018

Ania Manser (Chair), Clare Birks (Treasurer), Steve Hodges (Secretary), John Hawthorne Penny Barrett, Margaret Robinson, Lynette Thortnton, Robert Wilson and Emily Clemo.

Registered charity number 1161053

Supported by Time & Talents

Patron Rt Hon Sir Simon Hughes