



A message from the MFC Committee

We hope that those of you who were able to be with us in Worcester on Saturday 27th April will agree that we gave MFC a splendid send-off! *Zadok the Priest* was a worthy final piece to be sung lustily by all those singers present.

The AGM took place at lunch time as planned. Nicki Little agreed to chair it (for old times' sake?!) in the absence of a Chair of MFC for the past year. After some discussion and much sharing of happy memories and highlights and in the light of Malcolm's very helpful and incisive paper we unanimously agreed 'that the Chorus be dissolved in accordance with the procedure set out in its Constitution dated 21st May 2005. Further, that any Committee elected that day shall remain in office to discharge the duties required to realise the dissolution, including the distribution of any assets remaining after meeting proper charges and expenses, in accordance with the Constitution, and shall so continue until the dissolution is completed'.

The existing Committee members all agreed to be re-elected for the purposes outlined above and will be meeting on Tuesday 21st May in the first instance, with ex officio Committee members Malcolm and Donovan Cattell also present.

One of our tasks over the next few months will be to decide how our assets should be distributed. At the moment we estimate that a sum in excess of £25K, could be available for distribution. The money has to be given to charities approved by the Charity Commission with the same as or similar objects to MFC. As a reminder, the MFC Constitution states:

'The objects of the Society shall be:

- a) to promote, improve, develop and maintain public education in and appreciation of the art and science of choral music in all its aspects, by the presentation of public choral concerts and by such ways as the Society through its Committee shall from time to time determine;
- b) to promote, improve and foster the development, education and training of young singers and musicians in the art and science of choral music in all its aspects by the awarding of bursaries to such students as may be determined by the Committee of the Society.'

Suggestions for Suitable Charities

We invite members to submit suggestions for worthy recipients of the MFC assets. Please send your ideas to the MFC Administrator by Thursday 30th June for consideration at a later Committee meeting. A short summary of the objects and work of any proposed charities would be very helpful to assist the Committee in forming a strategy. Contact details for the MFC Administrator are

Felicity Rogers, admin@mfchorus.org

Annual Membership Subscriptions

With the decision to dissolve MFC having been taken at the AGM, bankers' orders for the payment of annual subscriptions (usually on 1st October) need to be cancelled. This has to be done by the member – banks will not accept instructions from MFC to do so. Members with electronic access to their bank accounts should be able to do this online; alternatively, a telephone call or letter to your bank will be necessary.

Souvenir Booklet of MFC Memories

In the course of our final Workshop Day it became apparent that every past singer has at least one highlight or happy memory of a particular workshop or concert. We have therefore decided to produce at some stage in the future a booklet of such memories, possibly with some illustrations or photos, a bit of history, past repertoire etc. We are therefore inviting YOU to submit a paragraph or two outlining your particular favourite memory or highlight of Choral Workshop / MFC. All contributions to the MFC Administrator by Thursday 30th June please; contact details as above

A Message from Malcolm

The final MFC event in Worcester provided a rich mixture of emotions for me – and, I think, for many others. The Beast (as many of us came to call it) has been a big part of my life since 1974, and I have to pinch myself to be reminded just what we managed to achieve over those years – the works we sang together, the orchestras and soloists with whom we worked, the buildings we sang in ... but, above all, the rich experiences that we offered hundred – maybe thousands – of ‘ordinary’ singers from across the Midlands and beyond, including Guernsey and a number of mainland European countries. It was a special thrill that one of our long-standing singers from Guernsey was able to be with us on that final occasion. Each year holds unique memories for me, and I look forward to offering some of these as part of the proposed Souvenir Booklet.

The final bars of *Zadok the Priest* were incredibly powerful, but what followed was completely unexpected – namely the standing ovation you gave me, and the cheque presentation. Some of you spotted that I shed a tear or two; I’m not given to public displays of emotion - I tend to leave those in my study at home! – but I was very, very moved. Thank you for your generosity.

I fear there will be many MFC friends with whom contact may be lost, but it would be lovely to know that some kind of connection might be possible in the coming months and years. this topic will be an Agenda item at our forthcoming Committee Meeting

We gave The Beast a good send-off, didn't we? Viva la musica!!

Come and Sing Mendelssohn *Elijah* Choruses with Malcolm!

A number of those who attended the final event asked whether Malcolm conducted similar events elsewhere. His chamber choir, The Sitwell Singers, holds an annual Come and Sing event in the town of Belper in Derbyshire each spring. The next event is on Saturday 29 February 2020 and will follow a similar pattern to our own Choral Workshops. If you'd be interested in learning more, please contact Malcolm directly – malcolm.goldring@googlemail.com.
