

August 14th 2017

Dear SMS Member,

I hope you are enjoying your well-earned summer break from choir rehearsals. During this time, the SMS Committee has met to discuss and confirm music arrangements for the future. Following these discussions, there is a change to the programme for this coming November. Having had second thoughts about the appropriateness of Handel's Zadok the Priest alongside the Vaughan-Williams' Sea Symphony, David Halls has recommended replacing the choral Handel with an orchestral item; Parry's Lady Radnor Suite. There are various reasons for this; firstly, it makes a more coherent concert and secondly the 'Sea Symphony' is a challenging work and a 'big sing' for the choir and will demand all our effort.

I understand this may be a disappointment to some as the Handel is a popular item, however we feel that David's musical knowledge and expertise should guide our choices.

In consequence, we will have one choral piece to rehearse during the autumn term and the Vaughan Williams scores will be available to you on the first rehearsal, Tuesday 5th September. There remains the question of the costs incurred by the choir so far; those who opted to buy the Handel score have paid £1.90 and those who opted to borrow have paid £1. The bought copies have already been purchased and are in hand, although we have, thanks to outgoing librarian Jane Podkolinski's efforts, been able to cancel the lending order from Wiltshire Libraries with a partial refund.

It would be very helpful to the Society if those who have bought their scores would accept their copies for their personal libraries, although if they would prefer a refund, the choir would of course honour that choice, refund the £1.90 and keep the unwanted copies in the Society library. Again, for those who opted to borrow their copy at a cost of £1, those who wished a refund will of course receive it. It would, however, be a great gift to the Society both in terms of administration and costs if members could show their generosity and absorb the cost on this occasion.

If you wish to be reimbursed, please email me, Lindsay Devine, the new SMS Librarian at lindsaydevine56@aol.com, so that an envelope can be prepared for you when you collect your Vaughan Williams score on 5th September.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Come and Sing prior to our first rehearsal - spaces are still available!

Kind regards,

Lindsay Devine
(SMS Librarian)