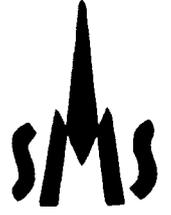




**Salisbury Musical Society**

[www.salisburymusicalsociety.org.uk](http://www.salisburymusicalsociety.org.uk)



**ANNUAL REPORT**

**AND**

**STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

**YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2019**



## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Members of the Salisbury Musical Society will be held at SOUTH WILTS GRAMMAR SCHOOL FOR GIRLS, STRATFORD ROAD, SALISBURY on **Tuesday 01 October 2019 at 7.30 pm** for the following purposes

1. To receive apologies for absence
2. To consider and approve the Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting
3. To receive Reports from The Chairman, Conductor, Assistant Conductor and Treasurer in respect of the year ended 31 July 2019
4. To receive and adopt the Statement of Accounts for that year
5. To appoint an Independent Examiner
6. To elect the Officers
7. To elect Ordinary Members of the Committee
8. To consider the Revised Programmes for Seasons 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 and the choice of Works for Season 2021/2022
9. To appoint the Voice Representatives
10. To consider Any Other Business

SIGNED ON BEHALF OF THE COMMITTEE

*Sue Blyth*  
..... (Secretary)

*04 September 2019*  
..... (Date)

# SALISBURY MUSICAL SOCIETY

The Committee presents its Annual Report and Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 July 2019.

## CONSTITUTION

The Society was founded in 1923 by Sir Walter Alcock and is registered as a Charity with the Charity Commissioners under the Number 266461. The Society is governed by a Constitution that was revised and adopted by the Members on 04 September 2018. The Registered Office of the Society is 11 The Oakbournes, Bishopdown Farm, Salisbury, SP1 3FZ.

## PRINCIPAL OBJECT

The principal object of the Society is to promote, improve, develop and maintain public education in and appreciation of the art and science of music in all its aspects by the presentation of public concerts.

## REVIEW OF THE YEAR

The review of the activities of the Society during the year is given in the separate reports of the Chairman, the Conductor, the Assistant Conductor and the Treasurer which are included on pages 13 - 17 of this Annual Report.

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Members of the Committee (being the Charity Trustees) who served during the year ended 31 July 2019 were :-

### Officers

Mrs J Burridge  
Mrs S Blyth  
Ms S Ford

Chairman  
Secretary  
Treasurer

### Ordinary Members

Mrs H Bache  
Mr C Edgar  
Mrs M Hollywood  
Mr L March  
Mr N Stiven  
Mr L Rose

(From 03-10-2017)  
(From 03-10-2017)  
(From 03-10-2017)  
(From 02-10-2018)  
(From 02-10-2018)  
(From 04-10-2016)

All the Officers and Ordinary Members will retire at the conclusion of the forthcoming Annual General Meeting. Mrs Bache, Mr Edgar and Mr Stiven will be eligible for re-election as Ordinary Members and can be nominated. Mr March is willing to be proposed as Chairman, Mrs Hollywood has stood down from the Committee. As regards Ordinary Members there will be six vacancies to be filled. Nominations by Members of the Society for any appointment as an Officer or Ordinary Member must be made in writing, supported by a seconder and delivered to the Secretary by not later than **24 September 2019**. Nomination forms can be obtained on application to the Secretary.

#### CO-OPTED COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mrs L Blakey	(IT Administrator)
Mrs L Devine	(Librarian)
Mrs F Jackson	(Minute Secretary)
Mrs J Lewy	
Mrs D Verdon-Smith	(Publicity)

#### ADVISERS TO THE COMMITTEE

Mr D Halls, the Conductor, and Mr J Challenger, the Assistant Conductor, attended meetings of the Committee during the year in an advisory capacity.

#### SIGNED ON BEHALF OF THE COMMITTEE

*Sue Blyth*  
..... (Secretary)

*04 September 2019*  
..... (Date)

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SALISBURY MUSICAL SOCIETY HELD AT SOUTH WILTS GRAMMAR SCHOOL FOR GIRLS, STRATFORD ROAD, SALISBURY ON TUESDAY 02 OCTOBER 2018

Mrs Jane Burridge, the Chairman, welcomed Members and Patrons present.

1. Apologies

Apologies for non-attendance were received from 14 Members and 12 Patrons.

2. Minutes of the Last Annual General Meeting

(a) Mr John Powell proposed and Mr John Foster seconded a motion that the Minutes, as published in the Annual Report, should be taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record. The motion was carried by a show of hands.

(b) Matters Arising None.

The Chairman announced that the Meeting would deviate from the set Agenda to deal with the name change issue, following discussions at the 2017 Annual General Meeting. Mrs Burridge said the Committee had examined the survey and comments very carefully and views expressed by the Committee suggested that the word "Society" was old-fashioned and should not be included in the new name. Therefore, Members were asked to vote between "Salisbury Musical Society" and "Salisbury Choral". However, there was a very strong view at the Meeting that the choice should be between "Salisbury Musical Society" and "Salisbury Choral Society", NOT "Salisbury Choral". Notice was given of an Extra-Ordinary General Meeting to be held at South Wilts Grammar School for Girls, Stratford Road, Salisbury on Tuesday 23 October 2018.

3. Reports from Chairman, Conductor, Assistant Conductor and Treasurer

Ms Spencer said she was disappointed that in her first year as Treasurer no money was made for the first time for 12 years. She said an increase in the Subscription was not proposed at present but for the Choir to survive in the long term Members must sell more tickets or it may become necessary to increase ticket prices and the Subscription. The Treasurer stated that ticket prices for the Britten concert would be a "one off", the concert being a very important event.

Neither the Chairman, the Conductor nor the Assistant Conductor had anything to add to their Reports. Adoption of all four reports was proposed by Mrs Di Verdon-Smith, seconded by Mr Ian Colvin and carried by a show of hands.

4. Adoption of the Statement of Accounts

The Treasurer had nothing to add. There were no questions for the Treasurer. Adoption of the Statement of Accounts was proposed by Mr Campbell Edgar, seconded by Mr Jon Hampton and carried by a show of hands.

The Chairman said she was very sorry that Ms Spencer had decided to resign as Treasurer and thanked her for the huge amount of work she had done in the past year.

5. To Appoint an Independent Examiner

Ms Spencer stated that Mr Gary Cook the present Independent Examiner, is a personal friend of hers and lives a long way from Salisbury, so is unlikely to want to continue. She said it would be better if someone local could be appointed. Decision postponed.

(Post-Meeting: Mr Martin Gairdner has been appointed as Independent Examiner)

6. Election of Officers

The Treasurer took the Chair; Ms Spencer reported that only one nomination had been received for the post of Chairman.

	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Second</u>
Mrs Jane Burridge	Mr Roy Bexon	Mr John Foster

The election of Mrs Burridge was accepted with acclamation.

Mrs Burridge said she was pleased to accept the nomination for another Season, and announced that she would be standing down at the 2019 Annual General Meeting, after eight years as Chairman.

Mrs Burridge resumed the Chair and reported that only one nomination had been received for the position of Secretary.

	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Second</u>
Mrs Sue Blyth	Mr Robert Taylor	Mr Roy Bexon

The election of Mrs Blyth was accepted with acclamation.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Blyth for the enormous amount of work she does on behalf of SMS Members and Patrons. Mrs Burridge announced that Mrs Blyth was giving the Society two years notice that she would be stepping down as Secretary at the 2020 Annual General meeting.

The Chairman announced that NO nomination had been received for the position of Treasurer. Ms Spencer had agreed to act as Treasurer until the end of the Autumn term. A new Treasurer could be appointed by the Committee if someone came forward to fill the post.

(Post-Meeting: Miss Stephanie Ford appointed SMS Treasurer by the Committee)

7. Election of Ordinary Member of the Committee

The Chairman thanked Elected Members of the Committee :

Mrs Heather Bache, Mr Campbell Edgar, Mrs Mandy Hollywood, Dr Hadyn Ingram, Mr Les Rose and Mrs Di Verdon-Smith.

The Chairman also thanked :

Mrs Lorraine Blakey (IT Administrator), Mr Philip Corp (Concert Programme), Mrs Lindsay Devine (Librarian), Mr John Foster ("100" Club and Music Stand), Mr Jon Hampton (Programme Notes and Gift Aid), Mr John Powell (Concert Tickets), Mrs Caroline Probert (Hosting our Soloists), Mr Nick Stiven (Concert Manager), Ms Sonia Woolley (Warm-ups).

The Chairman reported that six nominations for the six vacancies had been received:

	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Seconded</u>
Mrs Heather Bache	Mrs Heather Easton	Mrs Carole Bexon
Mr Campbell Edgar	Ms Christa Spencer	Mrs Di Verdon-Smith
Mrs Mandy Hollywood	Mrs Carole Bexon	Mr Robert Taylor
Mr Luke March	Mrs Jane Burridge	Mrs Sue Blyth
Mr Les Rose	Dr Hadyn Ingram	Mr Mike Rooke
Mr Nick Stiven	Mr Paddy Hartigan	Mr Chris Daniel

The Chairman asked them all to identify themselves.

The Election of Ordinary Members of the Committee en bloc was carried by a show of hands. The Chairman thanked the Elected Members for standing.

8. Revised Programmes for Seasons 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 and Proposed Choice of Works for Season 2020/2021

Mr Halls thanked all those Members who submitted suggestions to be considered by the Music Sub-Committee.

Revised Programmes for Seasons 2018/2019 and 2019/2020

13 April 2019 (Palm Sunday) confirmed.

Mozart	Mass in C minor	) With
Bach	Cantata 182	) COG

22 June 2019

Haydn	Nelson Mass	) With
Vivaldi	Gloria	) SSO

16 or 23 November 2019

Britten	St Nicolas	) With
Rutter	Magnificat	) COG

21 and 28 March 2020

Elgar	The Apostles	With COG
(Joint concert with Guildford Choral over two weekends)		

20 or 27 June 2020

Poulenc	Gloria	With SSO
Will Todd	Mass in Blue	With Jazz Ensemble

#### Proposed Choice of Works for Season 2020/2021

21 November 2020

Monteverdi	Vespers	With COG and other local Choirs
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20 March 2021

Janacek	Glagolitic Mass	With COG
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19 or 26 June 2021

All Mozart Concert	With SSO
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Questions from the floor :

Mrs Julia Sharpe asked why there was an issue reference SMS having a concert in December? Mr Halls replied that the Cathedral wishes to reserve December Saturdays for their own events, the Former Dean – June Osborne made the change; also BBC Wiltshire Sound have their Carol Service on a Saturday. There was also a problem that SSO may have difficulty in getting the City Hall.

Mrs Dell Warner asked if SMS could hold a concert on a different day of the week – say Wednesday? Mr Halls said it may be very difficult to get COG on a week day. It was agreed the subject would be discussed by the Committee.

Mr Andrew Warner asked about Zimbe – Mr Halls said it was being scrubbed, as Mr Wicks had moved on and Mr Challenger was uncomfortable with the work.

The Chairman put the recommendations to the Meeting. Mrs Heather Bache proposed and Mr Les Rose seconded that the Revised Programmes for Seasons 2018/2019 and 2019/2020 and the Proposed Works for Season 2020/2021 be accepted. This was carried by a show of hands.

Mrs Burridge thanked Mr Halls and Mr Challenger for their work on behalf of the Choir over the past Season.

The Chairman thanked the Patrons for their continued financial support; Mr Peter Grove, our Accompanist and Mr Chris Daniel and his team of Stewards.

9. Appointment of Voice Representatives  
Members who left the Choir during Season 2017/2018

The Chairman reported that all the present Voice Representatives were happy to continue for another Season. She thanked them all on behalf of the Society.

S1 - 5; S2 - 2; A2 - 3; T1 - 1; T2 - 2; B1 - 1; B2 - 1 = 15 people left the Choir during Season 2017/2018.

10. To Elect a President of the Society

Mr Roy Bexon - Proposed by Mrs Jane Burridge  
Seconded by Mrs Sue Blyth

The Chairman said Mr Bexon had held the huge role of Treasurer of SMS for 43 years and had accepted the nomination for President of the Society. Accepted with acclamation by the Meeting. Mrs Burridge said that no Terms and Conditions had yet been agreed. Mr Bexon thanked the Society for the honour and said he was very humbled.

11. To vote on a further proposed amendment to the SMS Constitution regarding a possible change of name

Please see the beginning of these Minutes :

Extra Ordinary General Meeting : Tuesday 23 October 2018

Change of Name Ballot

REMAIN AS SALISBURY MUSICAL SOCIETY

OR

CHANGE TO SALISBURY CHORAL SOCIETY

RESULT : REMAIN SMS = 58 // CHANGE TO SCS = 55

The name SALISBURY MUSICAL SOCIETY will remain.

Issue 3 of the Constitution (4 September 2018) stands.

12. Any Other Business. None

The Meeting closed at 8.20 pm

SIGNED ON BEHALF OF THE COMMITTEE

..... *Sue Blyth* ..... (Secretary) ..... *27 October 2018* ..... (Date)

# SALISBURY MUSICAL SOCIETY

## Receipts and Payments Accounts

Year Ended 31 July 2019

	Payments				Receipts			
	Britten	Mozart	Haydn		Britten	Mozart	Haydn	
<b>Performance Account</b>								
Soloists and conductor	3,550.00	4,250.00	2,961.80					
Orchestra	5,174.20	3,840.00	885.00			11,450.00	7,550.01	
Printing & advertising	27.39	1,250.40	920.20	Ticket sales	15,574.80	859.00	652.03	
Cathedral Hire	-	3,094.60	3,179.99	Retiring collection	957.45	-	-	
Music hire (orchestra)	-	308.54	740.38	Programme sales	1,022.95	-	-	
PRS	-	-	-					
Donation to Royal British Legion (Retiring collection)	957.45	-	-	Net cost of performance	(717.93)	434.54	485.33	
Cathedral's share of net proceeds and costs (note 5)	7,128.23	-	-					
	<b>16,837.27</b>	<b>12,743.54</b>	<b>8,687.37</b>		<b>16,837.27</b>	<b>12,743.54</b>	<b>8,687.37</b>	

Loss on:  
 Britten (717.93)  
 Mozart 434.54  
 Haydn 485.33  
 Advertisements re all concerts 64.98

266.92

## General Account

Conductor's honorarium	2,000.00	Members' subscriptions (net of repayments)	14,813.00
Assistant conductor's honorarium	1,250.00	Patrons' subscriptions	2,423.00
Accompanist's honorarium	1,920.00	Life Patrons (2)	800.00
Miscellaneous honoraria	75.00	Sundry donations	530.00
Making Music membership fee and insurance	497.00	Bequest (Mrs E (Dordie) Daniels)	2,000.00
Hire of rehearsal rooms	1,974.00	Hundred Club	516.00
Music hire/purchase	1,249.64	Music sales (choir)	1,188.02
Annual Reports	60.00	Advertising revenue	400.00
Secretary's expenses	189.03	Summer Party (net receipts)	330.00
Web site hosting and development	314.66	Refund from St Thomas's Church (hall hire)	125.00
Youth Award	535.00	Miscellaneous	2.94
Bank and card charges (incl PayPal)	320.04	Interest	299.13
PRS fees for previous season	391.96	HMRC Gift Aid 2017-18	3,412.59
Miscellaneous expenses	141.00	HMRC Gift Aid (small donations)	537.62

Net General Account receipts

16,459.97

27,377.30

27,377.30

**Summary of net receipts and payments**

Balance as above:  
General account net receipts  
Performance Account net payments  
Total Net Profit/(Loss) for the year

16,459.97  
(266.92)  
16,193.05

**Statement of Assets and Liabilities**

Cash balance at 31 July 2018  
Less Net Profit/(Loss) for the year  
Net Assets - 31 July 2019  
(subject to Notes 2 and 3)

59,986.85  
16,193.05  
76,159.90

**Notes**

1. The Net Assets comprise cash Balances at 31 July 2019 held at:

Lloyds Bank on Current Account 24,245.56  
Lloyds Deposit Account 25,049.62  
Lloyds Fixed Term Deposit Account 20,000.00  
COIF Account 6,794.72  
Cash floats 70.00  
76,159.90

2. No account has been taken of:

- a: subscriptions due but not received from members
- b: income tax recoverable in respect of years ended 31 July 2019.
- c: the value of a rostrum and stocks of ties, stationery, folders and music

3. No provision has been made for PRS Fees still payable for the year.

4. The Charity's Policy on Reserves is to hold sufficient cash to cover the cost of the coming Season's concerts.

5. The Britten concert was a joint venture with Salisbury Cathedral where it was agreed to share revenues and costs equally.  
This figure comprises the Cathedral's share of revenues less costs  
A detailed account can be obtained from the treasurer if required

Signed on behalf of the committee

*Stephanie Ford*

Stephanie Ford  
(Hon Treasurer)  
4 September 2019



**Section A**

**Independent Examiner's Report**

**Report to the trustees of**

Salisbury Musical Society

**On accounts for the year ended**

31 July 2019

**Charity no  
(if any)**

266461

**Set out on pages**

10 and 11

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 July 2019.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act").

**Independent examiner's statement**

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

**Signed:**

*M.H.T. Gairdner*

**Date:**

4 September 2019

**Name:**

M.H.T. Gairdner

**Relevant professional qualification**

FCA

**Address:**

Keepers Cottage, Berwick Road, Berwick St. James, Wiltshire, SP3 4TQ

## TREASURER'S REPORT

By any standards, and from a financial standpoint, this has been a most encouraging year for the Society. As in the table below, which summarises the last five Seasons, our cash situation has improved by £16,193.05 i.e. by about 25% over Season 17/18, when we almost broke even. I very much doubt that anyone expected this increase in our reserves at the start of the Season. In the next few paragraphs I will try to put into context what has happened.

Let's deal with the concerts first. The cost of the soloists was typical of a normal Season and we have similarly experienced that level of concert expenses (£38,333.16) before. Our Performance Loss was only £262.92, compared with £10,000+ in recent times. The difference is in ticket income. Sales were £34,574.81, over £10,000 more than a typical Season. The War Requiem was a very special, unique event which we undertook in collaboration with the Cathedral. In essence, we agreed to share the costs and any profit. If you look at the Balance sheet for that concert you will see two things in particular: a receipt from sale of programmes of £1022.95 and a single line item (Share of Britten costs) of £7128.23. This effectively covered the costs of hiring the Cathedral and choristers (£5052.80), production of programmes (£668.40) and cost of advertising (£2033). They also received £1000 in sponsorship.

Item	Season 14/15	Season 15/16	Season 16/17	Season 17/18	Season 18/19
Ticket Sales	14,696.18	23,522.66	19,667.06	20,680.56	34,574.81
Retiring Collections	1,344.33	1,730.41	2,023.37	1,931.26	2,468.48
Concert Income	16,040.51	26,753.07	22,440.43	22,611.82	38,066.24
Concert Expenses	25,198.76	34,792.80	34,040.13	38,569.10	38,333.16
Of which Soloists	6,515.00	10,000.00	8,245.00	12,202.00	10,761.80
Performance Loss	9,261.37	8,129.98	11,873.71	15,857.28	266.92
General Account Surplus	14,533.98	13,867.31	15,620.07	16,229.25	16,459.97
Profit (Loss) on Season	5,272.61	5,737.33	3,746.36	(171.85)	16,193.05
Cash assets	50,655.01	56,392.34	60,138.70	59,966.85	76,159.90

On the income side, the box office (after Wiltshire Creative commission) was £15,574.80. This high level was achieved from a significant rise in ticket prices for the event and a good audience (830). We also received the income from sale of programmes and the entire retiring collection (£957.45) was given to that worthy organisation the Royal British Legion. We ended the project with a net income of £717.93, with the Cathedral receiving the same amount in their £7,128.23. A very creditable outcome to a complex, moving and rewarding event.

Our other two concerts were in our normal format but at our now normal prices of £25, £20, £15 and £10. We also moved from Wiltshire Creative (The Playhouse) to our web-based ticketing system and sales to members at rehearsals. Both of these concerts made modest losses with audience figures of 587 (Mozart) and 381 (Vivaldi). The net cost of the Season's concerts was only £266.92 – some £10,000 better than previous years.

The General Account was its normal self except for a few items.

- Costs of the web site have now stabilised following its completion;
- The account includes PayPal costs from use of the web site ticketing and other activities (eg. score ordering);
- Total Members subs are reducing, reflecting our reducing numbers. We need to find more singers;
- We had two new Life Patrons;
- We received a bequest from the estate of the late Dordie Daniels, a long-serving member of the choir.
- We had advertising revenue of £400 total for the two later concerts;
- The net income from the annual party was £330.

Overall the General Account showed a typical excess for the year of £16,459.97. Coupled with the exceptional concert outcome this led to the large increase in our cash assets.

We will need to work hard – all of us – to maintain and hopefully grow our audience. Times are not easy for organisations such as ours – there are competing interests on many fronts – so we will continue to need our cash reserves to carry us through less (financially) successful seasons.

Stephanie FORD  
Hon Treasurer

### Governance Statement

The Trustees have taken note of the Charity Commission's Guidance on Public Benefit in undertaking its activities. They have also assessed the risks to which the Charity is exposed, including operational and financial risks. In the opinion of the Trustees the Charity has established resources and review systems which, under normal conditions, should allow the risks identified to be mitigated to an acceptable level in its day to day operation.

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

It has been a challenging year.

After a great deal of discussion among members of the Choir, much effort and thought by the Committee to understand people's views and suggestions of alternative names, and after a ballot, it was decided that we should retain the name "Salisbury Musical Society". The process caused some dissatisfaction and division between those who were strongly in favour of remain and those who wanted change. A sign, may be, of the times.

We have also recognised that if we want to attract younger members to join the Choir and younger people to come to our concerts, we need to change our marketing strategy and take advantage of the increasing use of the internet and social media. Many members of the Choir have been resistant to this change, but we have been very successful in achieving it. We are indebted to members of the Committee who have used their knowledge and experience to make sure it has happened and the support we have received from our Web-designer. The new website has been very successful. It reduces the amount of work involved in communication with members – ordering music etc and enables direct ticket sales at a cost of 1.4% per ticket instead of 12.5% that we were paying to the Playhouse. People expect to be able to buy tickets online these days and to be able to print them out at home. The first concert where online ticket sales were available, the Mozart/Bach concert on 13 April 2019, generated the largest audience (563) for a Spring concert since 2016 and the highest revenue ever.

And so to our music. The reason why we are here. Our performance of the Mozart Mass in C Minor – a personal favourite, paired with Bach's Cantata BWV 182, 'Himmelskonig, sei willkommen', which we sang in German, was superb and received great feedback from our audience. I quote here one comment from an audience member sent to the Box Office Manager, John Powell : "A big thank you for coping with the mess-up this evening about our tickets going AWOL. I found the email which had got into my Bin inadvertently. So sorry to cause a hassle. You and your stewards were very kind. Thank you for not turning us away. The concert was off-the-scale superb. We'll be back. With tickets next time!". So, of course, there were a few hitches on the night but John and his team sorted them out and clearly this audience member enjoyed the music too!

The highlight of the year was most certainly our performance of Benjamin Britten's 'War Requiem'. A joint venture with the Cathedral that worked superbly (and which we will be repeating). The date was, of course, perfect – on the Eve of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Armistice Day. The concert was almost a sell-out with the largest audience (830) since we performed the 'Dream of Gerontius' in 2008. We were able to donate £957 from the retiring collection to the Royal British Legion.

Our Summer party in the Big School Room at the Cathedral School was a great success. Thank you to everyone who made puddings and helped with the organisation. It was a wonderfully happy occasion and a fine opportunity for people to get to know each other better.

And so to the future. We are planning two more exciting joint ventures. The first in the Spring of 2020, when we will join with Guildford Choral to sing Elgar's 'The Apostles'. We will sing it twice, once in Salisbury and once in Guildford. The Verdi Requiem that we sang with them in March 2016 was a huge success and I am sure this will be too. The second is a performance of the Monteverdi Vespers in the Autumn of 2020. This concert will be hosted by the Cathedral – so no cost to SMS and we expect to be joined by The Farrant Singers and accompanied by Florilegium Orchestra.

I will thank the small number of Members who continue to give support to the Choir at the AGM, but two people who have dedicated their time and skills to the Choir are standing down from their positions. John Powell has managed ticket sales for 22 years with efficiency, dedication and good-will. John has been especially helpful in making the transfer to online sales, but he has now decided it is time to stop. Di Verdon-Smith has not performed her role of Publicity Manager for quite so long, but she has transformed our advertising strategy and it has been very effective in growing our audiences.

As you know I am sad and disappointed that not one single member of the Choir has offered to take on these roles. I wonder whether you believe that the Choir will simply run itself. If you do, you will be disappointed to discover that it will not. It will simply not exist without Members playing an active part, other than just singing.

Finally, after serving as Chairman of SMS for eight years, I will be standing down at this AGM. It has been a great privilege and I hope I have served the Society well.

Jane BURRIDGE  
Chairman

## CONDUCTOR'S REPORT

The first concert of the 2018-2019 Season was a spectacular event. SMS, together with the Salisbury Cathedral Choristers, three excellent soloists and the Chelsea Opera Group Orchestra, gave a most wonderful performance of Britten's War Requiem. The concert took place in Salisbury Cathedral on 10 November 2018, the eve of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the signing of the Armistice which finally brought World War 1 to an end. I felt that the SMS rehearsals had been positive as I adopted the principle of detailed work from the outset, often taking difficult passages line by line and then gradually building everything up. By the time we reached the concert date, I was confident that the Choir would perform well and so it proved. SMS really excelled in movements such as the 'Libera me' and 'Sanctus', with confident pitching and energetic leads. I was also pleased with the tuning of the many chromatic passages, on which we had spent much rehearsal time. The Choristers, conducted at the East End of the Cathedral by John Challenger, made a telling contribution and sounded assured and blended.

In April 2019, SMS performed two works : Bach's Cantata 182 and Mozart's Mass in C minor. The Bach Cantata, a lightly scored and intimate work, needed a deftness of style to bring it to life and I was impressed by the way the singers and indeed the orchestra members embraced this idea. Technically difficult in places, this charming piece received a good performance from the choir, and I particularly enjoyed teaching each part how to execute ornaments convincingly. In Mozart's fine but sadly unfinished Mass, the Choir produced many high points such as the 'Gloria', 'Sanctus' and 'Hosanna' movements. However, SMS sounded noticeably tired at the start of the 'Credo' and the interplay between the two chorus soprano parts did not come across especially clearly.

John Challenger and I thank the Chairman and Committee for their hard work, Peter Grove for his patient accompanying and, of course, all the singers in the Choir for a rewarding Season.

David HALLS  
Conductor

## ASSISTANT CONDUCTOR'S REPORT

It was a great pleasure to rehearse and conduct the Vivaldi 'Gloria' and the Haydn 'Nelson Mass' with SMS during the Summer term of this year. I have received some excellent feedback from members of the audience since our concert on 22 June, and this is all due to your hard work – thank you. The Vivaldi and Haydn are both well-known works and I hope that chorus members have enjoyed returning to these two pieces. The Haydn is one of my favourites and it was, therefore, a particular pleasure to conduct it with a large chorus and orchestra in the Cathedral.

Above all, I enjoyed the start of the Haydn and the 'Kyrie's were electrifying. In general, staying in time with the distant orchestra (easier said than done) was excellent. The altos were on top form with their 'Osanna's on both occasions and the whole performance had a wonderful feeling of energy about it. I enjoyed the exuberance of the fast movements, the solemnity of that great 'Benedictus' and the precision at 'Et sepultus est'. The Vivaldi also had many excellent moments, though the second movement ('Et in terra') went very flat indeed and tuning is a particular issue I will want to work on in the future. There was excellent watching of the Conductor from many people, though it would be good if this could be done by everyone. Clearly it is desirable for the Conductor to be able to communicate visually with 100 per cent of chorus members and there is no reason why this should not happen, especially in familiar music.

I believe Salisbury Symphony Orchestra played magnificently and accompanied very sensitively, at our concert. I am sure members will agree that our ongoing relationship with this Orchestra is something to be treasured. I wonder how many Cathedral Cities in this country can boast both a local chorus and orchestra of such strength – I suspect not many. I never take Ros Bromley's leadership for granted and am grateful for everything she did to make this concert a success.

I wish to thank the Committee, once again, for their tireless work to ensure that the June concert ran smoothly and for their ongoing amazing support with every other aspect of SMS. I remain especially grateful to Peter Grove for his superb accompanying and his encyclopaedic knowledge and I was so glad that he was able to participate in the concert, this time as both continuo and obligato chamber organist.

Thank you all for your hard work.

John CHALLENGER  
Assistant Conductor

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**TUESDAY 01 OCTOBER 2019 - SMS Annual General meeting at  
South Wilts Grammar School for Girls  
Stratford Road, Salisbury at 7.30 pm**

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**CONCERTS FOR SEASON 2019/2020**

- Saturday 16 November 2019 : Britten St Nicolas  
Rutter Magnificat  
With Chelsea Opera Group Orchestra
- Saturday 28 March 2020 : Elgar The Apostles  
With an Invited Orchestra  
A Joint Concert with Guildford Choral
- Saturday 20 June 2020 : Poulenc Gloria  
With Salisbury Symphony Orchestra  
Will Todd Mass in Blue  
With Jazz Ensemble

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