

## Summertime!

Summer is the chance for everyone to relax and recharge their batteries, but I am sure all the choir members are already looking forward to getting together starting at rehearsals and working towards the concerts that we have planned for the autumn term. There are details of events in the near future are in the Dates for your Diary Section.

Any ideas or submissions of items to be included will be gratefully received, as will any feedback. If you would like to receive the newsletter by email, just let me know via my email address below. **David**

## SPECIAL FEATURES

- **A Concert for The PD Society**
- **Image is Everything**
- **Smile Please!**
- **The Churches Conservation Trust**
- **Meet the Choir – Part 3**
- **Elbow**

## Regular Features

- **Patrons**
- **Website News**
- **Dates for your Diary**

## The Maia Singers;

**Director of Music:** John Pomphrey 0161 428 5456

**Administrator:** Lynda Whitney 0161 430 3899

**Newsletter:** David Haynes: [d\\_e\\_haynes@hotmail.com](mailto:d_e_haynes@hotmail.com)

**Website:** [www.themaiasingers.co.uk](http://www.themaiasingers.co.uk)

## A Concert for The Parkinson's Disease Society

### Concert review

Our concert on the 4th July at the Heaton's United Reformed Church was very successful.

The choir sang the varied programme well (John Pomphrey was happy!), the acoustics were good, Delia Corries' readings were, as always, a mixture of thought provoking and humorous, Ian Tate played some Scott Joplin ragtime (with audience participation) and combining these with a warm, appreciative audience produced a relaxed, pleasant evening with something for everyone. We were also delighted to have the Mayor and Mayoress with us. The interval refreshments and nibbles also went down well (literally) and thanks must go to those who prepared and served them.

Most importantly after meeting all expenses a profit of £700 was made which will be donated to the Speech Therapy and Language department at Stepping Hill Hospital who do valuable work helping people with Parkinson's Disease, and the Movement Disorder Clinic at Hope Hospital who carry out research into Parkinson's Disease.

Thank you to all who helped to make it such an enjoyable evening. Many friends from church and the choir gave their help, and this was very much appreciated.

Finally, a big thank you to the audience and to friends who were unable to be at the concert, but still gave donations.

**Bob Docherty**



## Patrons

### Patrons Evening

We are planning to hold a social evening for our patrons to say a personal thank you for your continued support.

On Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November patrons will be invited to attend our Monday evening rehearsal where we will perform a selection of our current repertoire and then there will be a chance for a mingle with choir members over tea and biscuits.

Please contact **Lynda Whitney** the Choir Administrator on 0161 430 3899 for more details of this event and also to let us know if you would be able to attend.

## Image is Everything

### A Scarf for all Seasons

The issue of scarves for the ladies was raised recently as the lilac ones were looking a little tired. There has been much debate and even a small fashion show after the Annual Concert, and a clear favourite was identified. However, the all black look that we had at Bob's Concert was very striking and received some positive comments, so perhaps less is more. Watch this space.

### Smile Please!

We were very lucky recently to have the services of photographer Aiden O'Rourke. He attended Bob's Concert and our last Monday night rehearsal and snapped away with some amazing results.

The pictures will be used to update the website (details below) and also for the promotion of The Maia Singers and our future events.

Pictures were also taken of the Stockport Youth Choir and these will be used to encourage young people right across the Borough to take up singing.

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*How many altos does it take to change a light bulb?*

*100 - 1 who can just about reach it and 99 to say "we can't get all the way up there!"*

*Thanks to Ed McHale for that one.*

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## The Churches Conservation Trust

This year the Churches Conservation Trust is celebrating 40 years of saving historic churches. They look after 340 of our most historic churches that are no longer used for regular worship. As part of this celebration, 40 choirs have been invited to perform at 40 churches all over the country, and we are very pleased to have been selected to perform at All Souls Church in Haley Hill, Halifax on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October.



This wonderful church was designed by Sir Gilbert Scott and completed in 1859 on a grand scale. His other works include St Pancras Station, and cathedrals in Glasgow, Edinburgh, New Zealand and Newfoundland. All Souls has a spire that is 236ft (72m) high, and every window contains stained glass. It was closed in 1979 and is a Grade 1 listed building.

For more information on the Church Conservation Trust visit their website;

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

### Website News

Keep an eye open for the new photo's that will be added to the website. They were taken at the 'Old and New' Concert and during our last rehearsal. It is also the place to go for has all the latest news and to buy via our online shop.

[www.themaiasingers.co.uk](http://www.themaiasingers.co.uk)

## Meet The Choir! Part 3

*it's amazing what you can find on the internet...*

"Why should singing different notes make people act differently?" Continuing the exploration of the sections of the choir, we now move on to the Tenors.



**"THE TENORS** are spoiled. That's all there is to it. For one thing, there are never enough of them, and choir directors would rather sell their souls than let a halfway decent tenor quit, while they're always ready to unload a few altos at half price. And then, for some reason, the few tenors there are, are always really good - it's one of those annoying facts of life. So it's no wonder that tenors always get swollen heads - after all, who else can make sopranos swoon? The one thing that can make tenors insecure is the accusation (usually by the basses) that anyone singing that high couldn't possibly be a real man. In their usual perverse fashion, the tenors never acknowledge this, but just complain louder about the composer being a sadist and making them sing so damn high. Tenors have a love-hate relationship with the conductor, too, because the conductor is always telling them to sing louder because there are so few of them. No conductor in recorded history has ever asked for less tenor in a forte passage. Tenors feel threatened in some way by all the other sections - the sopranos because they can hit those incredibly high notes; the altos because they have no trouble singing the notes the tenors kill themselves for; and the basses because, although they can't sing anything above an E, they sing it loud enough to drown the tenors out. Of course, the tenors would rather die than admit any of this. It is a little-known fact that tenors move their eyebrows more than anyone else while singing.

**Next time The Basses (I'm saving the best till last)**

### Dates for your Diary;

- **First Choir Rehearsal**  
**7<sup>th</sup> September 2009 7:30pm**  
**Remember, subscriptions are due!**
- **Church Conservation Trust Concert**  
**Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2009 2:30 pm**  
**All Souls Church, Haley Hill, Halifax**
- **St Anne's Hospice Singing Day**  
**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2009**  
**Royal Northern College of Music**

### Elbow

**James Bingham**, as well as being one of our tenors, has just performed with Mercury Prize winning Bury based band **Elbow**. As a member of the Halle Youth Choir, James performed in 2 concerts at the Bridgewater Hall as part of the Manchester International Festival.