

For starters....

The last six months have been among the most interesting and productive in the history of the choir. Last time, we reported on the difficulties caused by the sudden resignation of our previous maestro. We also revealed that we had been able to recruit his successor in time to avoid a break in rehearsals. Looking back over the time since that appointment, it can be said without question that we have worked harder and developed more new work than in any comparable period since the foundation of the choir. And the process continues, as we rehearse new work at the same time as preparing concerts with existing repertoire. Our new taskmaster, António de Jesus, with his considerable experience in leading choral groups, is proving adept at encouraging us to tackle new and interesting - as well as demanding - pieces, and bringing these to performance in record time. This requires energy and commitment of course, but the choir is responding well, as the standard of performance in Tavira recently testifies. These are challenging but exciting times for the Coro dos Amigos, and if you feel like being part of our adventure, come along to rehearsals and see what goes on. We need new members in all voices. Contact details can be found below.



Coro dos Amigos in Rehearsal.

Singing Workshop, 2nd April

This event, previewed in our last edition, was extremely successful. 7 people, with a whole range of musical skills and experience, turned up at the Museum to face several hours of hard but enjoyable work under the leadership of two of the tutors from the Zêzere Arts Festival. The group worked on a *Nunc Dimittis* by Palestrina, and although the style of music was foreign to quite a number of the participants, everyone made a great effort, and we were able to produce a complete performance at the end of the day. Not quite ready for the public, you understand, but satisfying for us!

Concert Performance, Tavira, 14th May.

This concert marked our first full collaboration with another Algarve choir, The Coro de Academia de Tavira, and it promised well for future work along similar lines. The main work, which was sung by the two choirs together, was Vivaldi's *Gloria*, while the two groups also performed separately from their own repertoires. Conducted in front of a packed audience in the Misericordia Church by the Tavira maestra, Isobel Reis, and supported by a string and harpsichord ensemble led by Luis Conceição, the concert was received with a standing ovation. Our contribution to the proceedings included two pieces by Joseph Rheinberger and a beautiful *Ubi Caritas* by living Norwegian composer Ola Gjeilo.

Other Choir Appearances.

We were able to form a group to sing at the funeral of a former employee of the Biblioteca in São Brás, where we rehearse. The lady worked in the coffee shop, and her family recalled her saying how she enjoyed hearing us sing.

Finally, a Coro group was asked to sing a short programme outside the market in Sao Bras on Whitsun weekend, the 21st May. Singing in the open air with microphones is not our usual habit, but it seemed to go reasonably well!



Sopranos working hard with accompanist Mary Legg

Coming Events.

Sunday 5th June. 19.30hrs. Igreja Matrix, São Brás.

This is our 'return fixture' with the Coro de Academia from Tavira. We shall be performing the *Gloria* once again with our visitors, this time conducted by our own maestro, António de Jesus. Then the two choirs will again offer pieces from their own repertoires. Our programme for the event will include some of the pieces from Tavira, with the addition of the haunting 'Halicha Lekeisariya' 'My God, My God, May these never end: *The sand, and the sea, The rustle of the waters, The lightning of the Heavens, And the prayer of Man.*' Also featured will be Hugh Robertson's immortal 'All in the April Evening', as well as one of our favourites, 'He that shall Endure to the End' from Mendelssohn's *Elijah*. This concert promises to be every bit as enjoyable as the first one, so we hope to see as many of you as possible at the event. Tickets available from the Museum. 10 euros, 8 for Amigos do Museu.



Coro dos Amigos Tenth Birthday Celebration Concert and Party.

2016 sees the tenth anniversary of the founding of the choir so, on Friday, 24th June, we are going to celebrate the fact with a free concert at the Museum in São Brás, followed by a meal in the open air, with musical accompaniment. We shall sing a selection of pieces drawn from each of the years of the choir's existence, ending with at least one piece that will be having its first outing. The event is open to everyone, so please come along and help to send us on our way into our second decade with a flourish. **Cost of the Meal is 8euros 50. Booking essential.**



While playing a full part in the Coro, the members of Canticorum have been busy with their 'sideline' of supporting wedding ceremonies here in the Algarve. By the end of July, we shall have sung hymns and songs at another three weddings.

If you want to get in touch with us, please contact the following:

General enquiries: Barbara. cantar@coro-amigos.com

Membership, rehearsals and Maestro: Diane. diane_ci@sapo.pt

Wedding bookings: David. david51.littlewood@gmail.com