

WALTER SULZER



Our Founder

Our Friend

1939 - 2016

Requiescat in Pace

One month ago, on August 9th, 2016 our beloved maestro died, after battling ill health for some time. He is, and will be, sorely missed, and our sympathies are with his widow, Paula, and all the family.

Walter's involvement with his choir stretched from 2006 – 2013, during which time we came to know him as a gentle man, who led us with patience, offered us friendship, believed always we could do better, encouraged us to improve and gave freely of himself, and his time. He had time for everyone, and was a much-loved member of the São Brás community.

His musical knowledge was extensive, his enthusiasm for it boundless, and even when he had handed on his choir baton to a new maestro, many of us continued to spend time with both him and Paula, singing or playing instruments, laughing and enjoying the music and their company.

As we begin our new season of rehearsals and music-making, he will be in our thoughts and in our hearts and in our voices. There must be many choirs of angels singing him to his rest.

Kyrie eleison

Cum Sancto Spiritu, in Gloria Dei Patris

Amen



Following our first very successful six months under our new maestro, António de Jesus, we are very much looking forward to the new season of rehearsals and concerts. As ever at this time of year, we start preparations for our Christmas offerings, though it always seems very strange to be singing about winter, in the Algarve in the middle of a heat-wave! Work began last Thursday, with a short *convívio* and 'catch-up' before the rehearsal proper. We have slightly changed our rehearsal pattern this year, and we now start at 6.45 with a voice warm-up, followed by two hours of work with the whole choir on the relevant pieces. So, away we go!....

First though, a brief look back to the early summer...

10th Anniversary Concert, 24th July.

For various reasons, there was not a great deal of time to prepare for or to advertise this concert, marking as it did an important milestone in the history of the choir. In the event we need not have worried, as the New Gallery was full, and we sang a selection of music reflecting the whole history of the choir, to an enthusiastic reception. This was followed by an excellent meal in the courtyard, prepared by Mark from Moncarapacho. It was especially pleasing that our first maestro, Walter, was able to attend – it would be, as our first page demonstrates, the last time we would see him at an event. Fitting tributes to his work formed part of the concert.

A couple of weeks before this event, we had performed in the church in São Brás, along with our friends from Tavira, offering Vivaldi's *Gloria*, together with pieces from the repertoires of both choirs. We hope to extend this kind of collaboration to other choral groups in the region as time goes on.



The latest choir photograph. Thanks to Gordon Railton.

Our Autumn Planning.

Our first outing of the new season will be at the Library in São Brás on 14th October. We shall sing a short programme at 7.00 p.m, as part of the opening for a "Tertúlia night" of poetry and painting, with participants from the Algarve and Madrid. However, our main focus of attention is on Christmas.

Our Christmas concerts this year will take place as follows:

Friday 9th December. Igreja Matriz, São Brás

Saturday 10th December. Museu de Trajo, São Brás

Saturday 17th December. Concert in Tavira, church of São Sebastião

We shall no doubt sing some old favourites at these events, but we are planning to introduce a number of new pieces, and *possibly* new styles! Some of the Christmas-related choruses from Handel's *Messiah* are in preparation.

Other Plans.

We are always looking for new places in which to sing, and we have two new venues in mind for the coming year. If you know of any hall or church where we might perform, do let us know, with a contact person if possible.

Choir Recruitment.

Attracting new members is a priority for us at all times. We have had some successes recently, but we need more voices in all parts of the choir. The most important criterion is to have a musical ear and be able to hold a note. The ability to read music is obviously an advantage, but it is not essential, as we have other ways and means of learning the pieces. If you think you would like to join us, or if you know anyone who is looking to join a choir, do contact us.

Weddings, Funerals and other Events.

As most will know by now, the choir is available to sing at all kinds of events and celebrations. The aim is obviously to assist and maybe entertain, but it is also to augment choir funds. If you have an event planned, or if you know of anyone who might like us to sing, please get in touch.

Contact Us

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

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

Wedding and other bookings, venue suggestions: David. david51.littlewood@gmail.com