



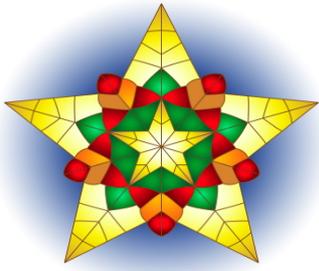
Coro Newsletter Winter 2017

It's that time of the year again. The choir is working hard on its festive events, and we wanted to tell you about them. We have three performance dates in December and January, and we hope that you will be able to join us for one or all of them.



Christmas Concert and Singalong, Saturday, 16th December, 18.00 at the Museum in São Brás.

This is our traditional Christmas offering, and the format of the evening will be similar to that of recent years. The choir will sing a number of carols in harmony, followed by a singalong session when you can join us in singing some of your favourite Christmas songs. As always, reflecting the international nature of both choir and audience, we shall sing in several languages (but not all at the same time!). A feature of the choir segment will be an extract from the *Missa Brevis* which we shall sing in its entirety in January (see below). Entry to the event is free, but donations in support of the Amigos do Museu will be most welcome.



Joint Concerts with the Banda Filarmónica de São Brás.

Saturday 13th January. Igreja da Misericórdia, Tavira. 18.00

Sunday, 14th January. Igreja Matriz, São Bras. 16.30.

This will be our third joint presentation with the Band. In 2015, a group of band members played for our performance of Purcell's Funeral Sentences for Queen Mary, and earlier this year we shared a concert with them to mark their anniversary.

Now we shall for the first time sing and play together a whole piece, *Missa Brevis*, by the living Dutch composer and conductor, Jacob de Haan. For those who don't know much about this man (and that included many of us before September!), here is a short introduction.

He was born in 1959 in Heerenveen, in the Friesland province of the Netherlands. He studied at the Music Academy in Leeuwarden, the regional capital, and afterwards lectured there. He developed an interest in writing for wind bands and for voice, and many of his better-known compositions are for these two, either separately or in combination. His two most noted pieces, apart from the *Missa Brevis*, are *Oregon*, which describes in music a rail journey across this western part of the USA, and *Ammerland*, a lyrical tribute to the beauty of the Zwischenahner Lake in Northern Germany. Both of these pieces have a strong flavour of film music, and this is another common feature of his work. He has conducted his works in many parts of Europe, and also in the USA and Australia.



The *Missa Brevis* is what one might describe as a full-throated setting of the Mass, with the traditional sections. It combines power with lyricism, and shows evidence of the composer's love of the film music genre. It was written as a commission for the Département of Haute Alsace in France, to celebrate the millennium of French Pope Leon IX, and first performed in 2002.

Choir Membership.

It is good to record that we have attracted some new members to the choir this year, but we still need more, especially male voices. Conveniently, we shall be starting a whole new programme after our mid-January concerts, so if you would like to give us a try, come along to a Thursday rehearsal any time after the 14th. You will be warmly welcomed. A reminder that you do not need to be able to read music, although it obviously helps. For information, contact David on 289489374, david51.littlewood@gmail.com