

**MAHLER SYMPHONY No. 8** **NEWSLETTER NO. 2**

Reply to Jos Gregson, 18 Willoughby Close,

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**WEEK 2**

Dear Singer,

 Thank you for signing up to sing in a performance of Mahler’s Symphony No. 8, the Symphony of a Thousand. This will take place in Gloucester Cathedral on Saturday 16th July 2022 as part of the Cheltenham Music Festival, conducted by Adrian Partington.

 This coming week we have four rehearsals, one of them a full Workshop so we have a lot to get through and both the Gloucester and Cheltenham rehearsals involve both Choirs

**WHICH CHOIR AM I IN?**

Mahler’s 8th Symphony is written for double choir which adds to the complications. Choir 1 will consist of singers south of Stroud, Choir 2 consists of singers from Stroud, Stonehouse and north. There are a few singers who have not listed their choir membership, please use this as a guide.

For the purposes of this Workshop and the July performance:-

**CHOIR 1** will consist of singers from Bath Bach Choir, Bradford-on-Avon Choral Society, Bristol Bach Choir, Bristol Chamber Choir, Bristol Choral Society, Bristol Phoenix Choir, Burford Singers, Calne Choral Society, Dodecantus, Gwent Bach Choral Society, Monmouth Choral Society, Nailsea Choral Society, Paragon Singers, Bath, Oxford Bach Choir, Swindon Choral Society, The Handful, Bath and Thornbury Choral Society.

**CHOIR 2** will consist of singers from Cheltenham Bach Choir, Cirencester Choral Society, Gloucester Choral Society, Hills Singers of Malvern, Newent Choral Society, Solihull Choral Society, Stroud Choral Society, Tewkesbury Choral Society, Three Choirs Festival Chorus, Worcester Festival Chorus and Wycliffe Choral Society.

**WHICH REHEARSALS SHOULD I ATTEND?**

Adrian would like all singers to attend the rehearsals that he is taking, namely those on 29/6, 2/7, 6/7, 9/7, 13/7, 15/7 and 16/7. The evening rehearsal on 15/7 is particularly important as that is when our Concert Manager, David Joyce will sort out the seating plan and allocate places. If you cannot attend this please arrange with someone from your voice section to make sure that you know where to sit.

Singers from audition choirs are also encouraged to attend the local rehearsals in Stonehouse and Alveston. While these are for singers from smaller choirs to get to learn the work it is very helpful to have more experienced singer singing alongside and I hope that many of you will consider doing this.

**SCORES**

I have good stocks of the Serenissima score for sale at £18 and also the Universal score for hire at £2. If you do not yet have a score I would suggest that you get hold of one urgently as time is getting short. Adrian is happy with all versions of the score including Kalmus.

**SCORE AMENDMENTS**

Adrian has produced a number of revisions to the score. These are available to download on the website sccg.info or if preferred ask me and I can email them to you.

**TICKETS**

I have a number of tickets available for sale. These are priced at £32 (30), £26 (25), £18 (15) and £10 (20). Numbers in brackets are the numbers of seats in our allocation.

As we have a large orchestra Row D is the front row.

£32 seats – D3-5, F17-18, H13-15, J7-9, 11-14, W8

£26 seats – DD3-6, DD15-18, EE3-6, GG3-9, GG14

£18 seats – K1-2, L1-2, JJ5-7, JJ12-14, KK3-4, KK12-14

£10 (North Aisle) seats – A5-9, D4-8, F1-2

£10 (South Aisle) seats – A4-7, C3-6

I have a seating plan and can send it to you if you require it or you can look on the Cheltenham Festival website. As I sell tickets I will update this list so that it is current when I send it out. The tickets are denominated at £0.00, we are given these tickets as part of our massive costs towards putting on the performance.

Seats are also available from the Cheltenham Festival Box Office at cheltenhamfestivals.com/booking

**BUSES**

We will be running buses from Thornbury to every Gloucester and Cheltenham rehearsal and the performance. These will leave from outside Aldi in Thornbury which has two car parks adjacent to it. The cost will be £10 per trip and the 33-seater coach will be operated by Mike’s Travel. Booking forms are available on the SCBSG website SCCG.info or from myself.

All departures will be from outside Aldi in Thornbury.

Margaret Pinder will be Coach Monitor, her mobile number is 07753 162920. Mike Elcock will be coach monitor on 2nd July only, his mobile number is 07979700340

June 29th Rehearsal Crypt School, Gloucester, departure from Thornbury at 18.15, leave Crypt School at 21.45.

July 2nd Workshop Christ Church, Cheltenham, departure from Thornbury at 08.45 leave Christ Church at 16.15.

July 6th Rehearsal Christ Church, Cheltenham, departure from Thornbury at 18.15 leave Christ Church at 21.45.

July 9th Workshop Crypt School, Gloucester, departure from Thornbury at 08.15, leave Crypt School at 15.45.

July 13th Rehearsal Gloucester Cathedral, departure from Thornbury at 18.15, leave Gloucester Cathedral at 21.45.

July 15th Rehearsal Gloucester Cathedral, departure from Thornbury at 18.15, leave Gloucester Cathedral at 22.15

July 16th Rehearsal and Performance Gloucester, departure from Thornbury at 12.45pm, leave Gloucester Cathedral at 22.15

Please pay either by BACS to **SCBSG** sort code **55-61-38** Account **72408375** or by cheque made out to **SCBSG** to Jos Gregson, 18 Willoughby Close, Alveston, Bristol BS35 3RW

**WEEK 2**

**Tuesday 28th  June** – rehearsal 7.30-9.30pm at Wycliffe Junior School Performing Arts Centre, Ebley Road, Stonehouse GL10 2LD to be taken by Chris Swain. This rehearsal is for Choir 2. We will be serving water and orange squash at around 8.30pm.

*To get to the venue from the M5 head for Stroud and cross five roundabouts. About 200 yards after the fifth roundabout there is an opening on the right labelled Gate 19 and a large car park. Go into the car park, park and there is a small gate in the fence. Go through this and the Performing Arts Centre is on the left after about 200 yards. Do not be diverted onto the Stroud bypass.*

*Coming out of Stroud follow the A419 out of Stroud along Cainscross Road. Go straight across the large roundabout at the Marling School end into Westward Road. Gate 19 is around 1.25 miles on your left. Kennedy’s Garden Centre used to use the car park.*

**Wednesday 29th June –** rehearsal 7.30-9.30pm at The Crypt School, Podsmead Road, Gloucester GL2 5AE to be taken by Adrian Partington. This is a full rehearsal for both Choirs 1 and Choir 2 and as many of you as possible are urged to attend.We will be serving water and orange squash at around 8.30pm.

*Coming from Junction 12 on the M5 follow signs to Gloucester city centre on the dual carriageway. Cross two roundabouts and at the major lights that are next turn right on the A38 to Gloucester City Centre. After around 800 yards Podsmead is on the left at lights. Turn left, go round a small roundabout and drive into the Crypt School driveway. There will be a large car park on the left before you reach the school building. Park your car and go round the side of the building, check-in is at the main entrance on the other side of the building from the car park.*

*One of our Workshop singers points out that the Number 10 bus to Cheltenham from Gloucester and vice versa has a Podsmead Road stop*

**Thursday 30th June** - rehearsal 7.30-9.30pm at Alveston Methodist Church, Greenhill Road, Alveston BS35 3RA to be taken by Steven Kings. This rehearsal is for Choir 1. We will be serving water and orange squash at around 8.30pm

*Coming out of Bristol take the A38 – after you pass the village sign saying ALVESTON St Helen’s Church is on your left. Turn left immediately after St Helen’s Church, Alveston Methodist Church is around 400 yards on the left on the corner of Wolfridge Ride.*

*Coming from the Stroud and Gloucester direction on the A38 go through the lights signed to Thornbury and immediately get into the right hand lane. Turn right into David’s Lane, drive to the T junction at the bottom, turn left and immediately right and Alveston Methodist is up to your left.*

**Saturday 2nd July –** Workshop 10am-4pm at Christ Church, Malvern Road, Cheltenham GL50 2JH to be taken by Adrian Partington and Steven Kings. This is a full rehearsal for both Choir 1 and Choir 2 and as many of you as possible are urged to attend. There will be a tea and coffee break at around 11am. Please bring your own lunch, we will stop for lunch between 1pm and 2pm.

Parking – there is a charity function going on in part of the church building while we are there. Please be sensible with parking and provided that you are fit park well away from the church, there is a lot of on-street parking. We will be using the main church doors, please do not try and come in via the charity event as we will be keeping the door between the church and annexe doors closed until we have started. If you are coming from south of Bristol this and the next Christ Church rehearsal on July 6th might be a very good occasion to use the bus from Thornbury.

*Coming in to Cheltenham from Junction 11 on the M5 approach Cheltenham on the A40. Cross the first roundabout taking the third exit, pass GCHQ on your left and take the second exit at the next roundabout. Go straight ahead at the lights by the Shell station into Lansdown Road, Malvern Road is the eighth left turn and Christ Church faces you at the bottom of the road. There is parking along a lot of Malvern Road but as stated above please if possible park a good distance from the Church.*

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at each rehearsal relevant to the Choir that you are in, especially all the joint rehearsals in Cheltenham and Gloucester. Tickets are selling well and hopefully we will be singing to a full house.

If you have any queries at all please contact me at any of the contact points at the head of this Newsletter

Jos Gregson

Chairman, South Cotswold Big Sing Group