

**MAHLER SYMPHONY No. 8** **NEWSLETTER NO. 4**

Reply to Jos Gregson, 18 Willoughby Close,

Alveston,

Bristol BS35 3RW

Tel: 01454-411652

Email: jos@josgregson.plus.com

**WEEK 4**

Dear Singer,

 We have now held six sectional rehearsals, three each at Stonehouse and Alveston and four group rehearsals, two evening sessions and two Workshops.

 This coming week is concert week with sectional rehearsals at Stonehouse and Alveston, two evening rehearsals at Gloucester Cathedral and an afternoon rehearsal with orchestra followed by the performance in the evening of July 16th

**CONCERT DRESS**

For ladies – black top with at least three-quarter length sleeves, long black skirt or trousers.

For gentlemen – black dinner jacket with white shirt and black bow tie. If the cathedral is warm enough we will be dispensing with jackets but this decision will be made on the day so please come prepared with a jacket in case it is required.

**CONCERT FOLDERS**

We will be using folders courtesy of Thornbury and Wycliffe Choral Societies. As Kalmus is white, Universal is blue and Serenissima is green or red we are very keen to use folders to give a uniform appearance. Folders will be on your seats when you arrive.

**WATER**

If you feel that you need to take a bottle of water in to the concert please can you take as small a bottle as you can manage with and keep it out of sight, both when taking your seat and also while sitting down.

**PROGRAMMES**

We have produced a 32 page programme with details of the soloists and conductor, lists of the orchestra, singers and children’s choir members and most importantly a write-up on Mahler’s 8th Symphony and a full libretto with translation. At 5pm on the 16th after the afternoon rehearsal we would like a number of singers to help by putting a programme on each audience seat, also the soloist’s, singers and orchestra seats. The boxes of programmes will be stored in the Cathedral and the authorities are going to lend us a trolley to shift them.

**PARLIAMENT SUITE**

We will be using the Parliament Suite for changing in. As you enter the Cathedral Close through the main gate the entrance to the Parliament Suite is to the left and behind the West Door of the Cathedral. There are three rooms in the Suite. Ladies will use the room looking over the Close, the centre room will be used for serving juice and biscuits and the main room will be used by the men. We suggest that you bring a picnic or sandwiches to eat either in the cathedral grounds or in the Parliament Suite.

During the rehearsal and also during the performance the Concert Manager David Joyce or his Deputy, Patrick Marks will lock the doors and hold the key so that valuables will be safe there.

**TICKETS**

I have a diminishing number of tickets available for sale. The Cheltenham Festival are now sold out of the pre-concert talk and all concert tickets apart from the side aisles. Ours are priced at £32 (30), £26 (25), £18 (15) and £10 (20). Numbers in brackets are the numbers of seats in our original allocation.

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

£32 seats – D3-5, W8

£26 seats – DD15, EE3-6, GG3-4, GG14

£18 seats – K1-2, L1-2, JJ5-6, KK3-4,

£10 (North Aisle) seats – A7-9, 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.

Aisle 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

 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.

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 21.15pm

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 4**

**Tuesday 12th July** – rehearsal 7.30-9.30pm at Wycliffe School Chapel to be taken by Steven Kings. 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 on the A419. At the fourth roundabout take the first exit (B4008) and the official Wycliffe College car park is on your left. Alternatively you can turn left just after the lights before the roundabout and park in the school grounds, there are usually a lot of minibuses there. From the grounds you can see the spire of the chapel. If you park in the school car park walk in the same direction either along the road you have turned into or through the grounds, I am told it is about 5 minutes walk.*

**Wednesday 13th July –** rehearsal 7.30-9.30pm at Gloucester Cathedral GL1 2LX to be taken by Adrian Partington. There is a lot of parking in the Westgate Street Car Park, accessible from the inner ring road. 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 bejoined by the Children’s Choir for this rehearsal. We will be serving water and orange squash at around 8.30pm.

*Very well signposted with brown signs from outside Gloucester. There is a large car park in Westgate Street as you leave the inner bypass to turn left towards the Cathedral. It is a five minute walk to the Cathedral from the car park.*

**Thursday 14th July** - 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.*

**Friday 15th July –** Rehearsal 7.30pm-10.00pm at Gloucester Cathedral GL1 2LX to be taken by Adrian Partington. Note the slightly extended time. This is a full rehearsal for both Choir 1 and Choir 2. It is vital that as many of you as possible attend as this is when our Concert Manager David Joyce will sort out the seating plan. If you cannot attend please ensure that a colleague in your voice part keeps a seat for you for concert day.

**Saturday 16th July –** Rehearsal and performance**.** We will assemble to the left and right of the staging area and line up as instructed. On the instructions of the Concert Manager and his deputy we will move to the choir area and raised seating in alternate rows, loading the staging from the front for stability. Please be in your appointed transept by 7.15. This is going to be a slightly complex manoeuvre and it is likely that the Concert Manager will ask us to practice getting on and off the staging at both the 13th July and the 15th July rehearsals.

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 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