

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

Reply to Jos Gregson, 18 Willoughby Close,

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**WEEK 4**

Dear Singer,

 I give below some final final notices before our concert. Please pay particular attention to the stands and sits and also to the stage arrangements.

**CONCERT DRESS**

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

For gentlemen – black dinner jacket trousers with white shirt and black bow tie. The forecast is for 30o on concert day so **we have decided to dispense with jackets**.

**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.

For the rehearsals on 13/7 and 15/7 **we will not be having a juice break** after an hour or so as this will mean dismounting the staging which takes time. Please bring any liquid refreshment that you require for those evening’s rehearsals. Non-alcoholic, of course!

**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

£26 seats – EE3-6, GG3-4, GG14

£18 seats – K1-2, L1, 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

**STANDS AND SITS**

Please get these entered in your scores. Steven will be going through them at Stonehouse and Alveston rehearsals and Adrian will also go through them at Gloucester rehearsals as it is very important we get them right.

Revised Scheme of Chorus stands and sits; with some instructions about voice parts sharing

**First Movement**

Before the start: all stand with Leader – **remain standing**

Three bars after Figure 23 : all sit

Figure 37 : all stand; stand to the end of the movement

A.P. to sit chorus after the movement

**Second Movement**

All seated at the start

Figure 23 **All Ts and Bs stand**

Figure 29 **All Altos stand** (Choir II ATB to sing with Choir I at Fig 31 )

Six bars after Figure **32** **All sit**

Figure 55 **All Sops and Altos to stand** (Choir II S and A to sing at Figure 63)

Figure 68 All S1 to sing with A1; All S2 to sing with A2

Figure 75 **All Ts and Bs to stand** (Both choirs sing after Figure 76; **all Ts and Bs sing before Fig 81)**

**Figure 81 Sops and Altos of both choirs sing here**

Figure 82 All Ts and Bs sit

Figure 86 All Sops and Altos sit

Figure 100 **sung seated**

Figure 101 All Altos to sing with T1s (Choir I and Choir II)

Figure 102 S1 sing with A1; S2 sing with A2

Figure 109 All still seated

**Figure 109 Choir II A1 sing with T1; A2 sing with T2; this is a new instruction!**

Figure 112 A1 sing with S1; S2 sing with A2

**Three bars after Figure 114 Choir II Sops stand and sing in unison until Figure 116; then divide**

Figure 117 Choir II Sops sit

Figure 160 Choir II Sops sing seated

Four bars after Figure 170 all singers stand to the end of the work

Figure 176 Both Choirs sing “ Komm” each time

**STAGE LOADING AND APPLAUSE**

1. The choir will enter from both sides with Choir 1 and the Children’s Choir entering from the north transept and Choir 2 entering from the south, filling the lower, front rows first.

2. After entry we shall remain standing until all rows are in until a designated person on the front row signals us to sit.

3. We will stand up when the orchestral leader stands.

4. During the concert we will sit and stand according to the conductor’s directions previously circulated.

5. At the end of the concert we will remain standing until the conductor goes out, when we shall sit. We remain seated when he re-enters unless/until the conductor signals us to stand.

6. Whilst standing we are receiving applause so do not applaud ourselves unless the conductor singles out a soloist or members of the orchestra. Whilst seated we join the audience in applauding the conductor & soloists.

**7. When all applause has finished and the conductor has departed, the choir will leave the stage in the reverse order in which they entered – that is the top rows will exit first.**

**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**

**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. **There will be no squash break.**

*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. **There will be no squash break**

**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