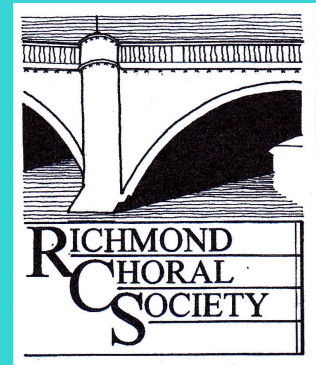


# RICHMOND CHORAL SOCIETY

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## Christmas celebration success!

On Thursday the 15<sup>th</sup> December we pulled off one of our most ambitious projects yet: a collaboration between our choral society, the renowned local chamber choir Cantanti Camerati, and the chamber choir of St. James's Catholic primary school – plus our soloist Rosalind, and the Eloysia string quartet. It was a lot of work, with different combinations of forces moving together to create a lovely evening of seasonal music. It could have been chaotic and disorganised but somehow, with the calmness of the (other!) choir leaders, and a big effort from everybody, it worked beautifully. We began with some informal music in the foyer – amid a large, noisy and slightly confused audience! – which set a lovely cheerful mood for the evening. Then, led by Cantanti, we moved into the theatre for our more formal event. I thought we sang really well, beginning with the string-accompanied Haydn mass – really smooth! – and moving on to a whole range of music from the various choirs. The children were a very welcome and well-behaved addition to the evening, and it was lovely to work with Cantanti for a few numbers.



I found 'Lullay my liking' to be particularly successful, with the massed voices of the two adult choirs. I'd like to say a big thank-you to you all for giving my 'Silent Night' a go – it came together on the night and made sense. I was very pleased with it and I hope you enjoyed working on it.

Well done to our pianist Roger, who kept everything together really reliably. Rosalind sang beautifully of course, in both the Haydn and 'The Three Kings'. She is taking a break from us next term to have her baby: we all wish her the best of luck, and look forward to seeing baby X!

Thank you for your ticket-selling efforts – we had a lovely big audience, who really enjoyed the evening. Well done to everyone involved, and roll on next term!

Enormous thanks as usual go to all of the choir members who contributed to the term's work – organising, catering, designing, printing and so on. Thanks as always to Indigo Blue's continuing sponsorship via Jason, which enables the choir to go from strength to strength. **Please remember that next term, we would like to introduce 'voice part reps' – one soprano, one alto and one man – to act as spokesperson for their voice parts, liaise with me, think about extra rehearsals, and so on. They do not have to LEAD the rehearsals! Do volunteer, or nominate someone...**

### Choral Course at RACC

**April 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>**

RACC have asked me to run a choral course over three afternoons at college, in the Easter holidays. We will sing some popular choruses (including good old Zadok!), and work on vocal and choral technique. It will be informal and fun – and there will be an informal presentation of our work at the end. Come and sing for pleasure!

**Course code available soon for booking.**

### Next Term: Baroque Jewels.

**Concert date: Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March in the Unitarian Church, Richmond**

**Rehearsals: start on January 9<sup>th</sup> in the RACC theatre.**

A lovely programme of Bach, Handel, Monteverdi and Purcell. Most pieces are in English, with a few in German and Italian. We have booked our soloists already: Sally (sop) who has sung with us many times before; Adrienne (sop) whom some of you may recognise from her role as Pamina in *The Magic Flute*; Lucy (alto) who sang the Fairy Queen for us in *Iolanthe*; John who is our regular and much-appreciated tenor bumper; and Cedric whom we have lured back!

We will aim to get through all the pieces by half-term, so that the second half of term can be spent really polishing them and being confident about our singing.

I have spent a long time setting up a **MOODLE page** on the college website. This is simply a one-stop page for our course: there you can find all the scores for the term; information about the pieces; rehearsal aids for every one of the choruses, recommended recordings, and further information such as hints on approaching new pieces, and links to useful websites. You will never need to ask me for a spare score again!

**Go to the college website and log on with your college password and student number. Find MOODLE and/or 'MY COURSES' and choose Baroque Jewels, and then just click away!**

**Please sign up nice and early, and of course try to recruit new singers (and bring previous members back) - definitely the more the merrier, and we are trying to increase numbers in return for a reduced fee...**

### Future repertoire

**Summer 2017:** *Elijah* (Mendelssohn). We will at last get to perform this lovely oratorio, which we've been talking about for a couple of years! Even better, we will once again sing in the magnificent church of St. Anne's on Kew Green, this time in aid of SPEAR Richmond (thanks go again to Rebecca for setting this up). On Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April, TCS is performing *Elijah* in the Landmark centre, so go along and get familiar with it! This is a popular work, so talk to lots of people about it in case they want to come along and sing (and advance notice for audience).

**REQUEST:** please could you all go online and fill in the course feedback form for last term? I have discovered that when we do them on paper, some unlucky admin person then has to type them all in... it should take a couple of minutes and is necessary for funding and to keep our course alive. You will need your student number to log in to the college website, then go to 'your feedback' on the left hand panel, and in there, find 'complete and submit a course evaluation form'. Thank you!

## PLUG TIME

*Richmond*  
**OPERA**

Haydn **Creation** (Part 1) and Vivaldi **Gloria**,  
Saturday 25 March 2017, 7.30 pm.  
Vineyard Church, Richmond. TW10 6AQ  
Contact Lucy Green for information about joining the  
chorus for this performance, or see the website for details.  
[www.richmondopera.org.uk](http://www.richmondopera.org.uk)

This is my next concert. It is quite a way from Richmond, but I would be delighted if you could come along! The repertoire is fabulous – a whole new sound-world to explore.



*Duo Maddalena*  
*Presents*

### *A feast of Mediaeval music*



At 7.30 pm on Saturday January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017  
English Martyrs RC Church,  
2 Mitcham Lane, Streatham SW16 6NN.  
Tickets £10 on the door



*Duo Maddalena*

**Lucy Green - mezzo, vielle-à-roue**  
**Janet Oates - soprano, percussion**

with

**Wezi Elliot - lute**  
**Sam Brown - lute**

**Allan Moore - percussion, vielle-à-roue**  
**Mary Stallebrass - recorders**  
**Dorothy Goodall - recorders, bass viol**

Duo Maddalena specialises in three aspects of music, and their interactions: early music; contemporary classical music; and music by women composers. We offer programmes of entirely Mediaeval, Renaissance or Baroque pieces, entirely newly-composed works, or eclectic mixes.

This programme comprises mainly Mediaeval music, with one contemporary piece to the words of a 12-century Troubadour poem. Using two voices and a combination of hand-percussion, lutes, recorders and vielles-à-roue, we recreate the soundscape of mediaeval France, England and the Netherlands. Atmospheric songs by women Trouvères and Troubadours such as the Comtesse Beatrice de Dia are intertwined with lute-songs by Binchois, up-beat dances by Machaut, and a range of serious, humorous and devotional anonymous pieces.