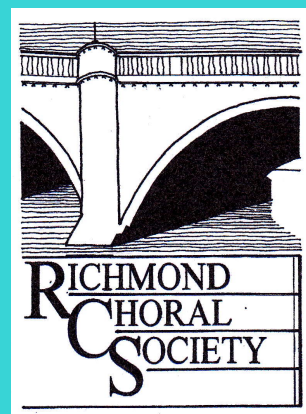


RICHMOND CHORAL SOCIETY

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Vive l'Europe!

Well done everyone for a stonking evening full of variety and contrast – and which, the audience agreed, fully celebrated the rich cultural traditions of Europe. We had a lot of different styles, themes and periods to deal with, which is always tricky in one term, but we really got on top of things in the final week (well done for your extra rehearsals – the work showed) and produced another great concert. Thanks to Beth-Ann for leading the audience's appreciation of 'Ode to Joy' which went down particularly well! Pieces that had seemed rather dubious in the weeks leading up to the concert – the Brahms and *Rosa das Rosas* for example – suddenly came alive once our lovely bumper singers were there to balance up the voice parts and give us confidence. Thank you to Alex, Fiona, Archie, John and Bradley for their help. I really enjoyed the solos – how fabulous to hear Mike playing a solo for a change! And Chris and Rosalind impressed us once again with their stunning performances.



Please could all members take 2 minutes to fill in an evaluation survey, online here:
<https://ps9.racc.ac.uk/course-evaluation-and-outcome-survey> - thank you!



Thank you to all of you who helped out in any way during the term and for the performance: to Lyn for our wonderful flier and poster; the projectionist, the organisers of rehearsals and the voice-part reps, social bosses, front of house (a special thank you to Ellie, John V's friend), caterers and so on. It was lovely to see some ex-RCS singers helping out and in the audience, too. Come back to join us again!

NEXT TERM: *Messiah*!

Next term on Friday December 14th, we will be performing Handel's MESSIAH in the Unitarian Church. Mike and our soloists are already booked: Olivia Moss (soprano), Lindsay Bramley (alto) David Menezes (tenor), and Jerome Knox (Baritone)! It is going to be a wonderful experience so please start publicising it right now – inviting singers, audience, getting people to book the date....

There are many rehearsal files and tracks available publicly – this one for example: http://www.messiahsingalong.org/mp3_library.html, so you can get started straight away... I'll be creating the Moodle page soon, which will explain what we're singing and what we're cutting, lead you to recommended rehearsal aids, and give you a rehearsal schedule. Once I've done that, you can access it as soon as you sign up for the course. **Please sign up in advance so college doesn't get worried.**

TASTER SESSION: on Saturday 8th September from 2 – 4 in college, we'll have a FREE taster session, singing the Halleluia chorus and one other – please do come along to this. We'll need a certain number to sign up for it to run, and places will be available on the day so you can drag your friends along. Obviously this is an excellent opportunity to get some extra rehearsal time, as well as to attract new members. We're going to try to organise an informal singalong performance over the road at the train station at the end – great publicity!

I would like to advertise my favourite project, Philomel, to you: we are a group of 6 sopranos, accompanied by harpsichord and theorbo, singing beautiful songs and arias from the late Renaissance, alongside works newly written for us. Our next concert is 'Cecilia Sings', an evening themed for St. Cecilia's day, on Saturday November 24th in the Swiss Church, Covent Garden, London. I hope you will come – previous concerts have been rapturously received! We are also looking for sponsors for this concert to help this wonderful project come alive: I will be in touch soon about this!

