

Christmas-ish newsletter

It's been another very odd term of course – I hope that you've all stayed well, been able to get out and about, and are finding interesting things to do. Though a lot of my performing work was cancelled, I was delighted to have been able to do some recording with Philomel, and also to squeeze in a live concert with them in October. Have a look at www.philomel.co.uk to see some recordings. I've had lots of time for composition this year, including a couple of collaborations with dozens of other musicians – hurrah (for once) for technology! Oh, and am I allowed to mention running? I just won my age category (F50) in a 10k trail race! The prize was.... free entry to another race!

ParkNot singers: once again we continued to meet over Zoom, unofficially, to have a weekly singalong-on-mute. It's been wonderful to keep in contact with you all – and others are welcome to join in the new year (just drop me an email).

Richmond Choral Society: RCS will not re-start until we're able to meet live and all together. I've asked college about hiring a bigger venue (their biggest room, the theatre, can only host 12) but no news yet.

Some lovely news: remember Jerome Knox, who has sung baritone solo several times for RCS, including the recent Messiah and a memorable Elijah in Kew? He's just **WON** the Handel Singing competition! It's a prestigious and very high quality competition – just remember that we knew him before he was famous....



New live singing groups:

This term, I started a new chamber choir for sopranos and altos, in the theatre at RHACC (therefore limited to 12). It worked very well and will re-start in January. There are a couple of places left I think, so sign up quickly with college, or get in touch with me if you have any questions.

Next term, there will be a similar group for tenors and basses – again, there are 2 places left, so please sign up or persuade a friend! Repertoire will be lively and varied, and tailored to the group. Contact me if you're unsure...

Random news: Ethel Smyth, she of the *Mass in D* that RCS performed a couple of years ago, has won a Grammy nomination for her symphony 'The Prison' – only 76 years after her death! Go Ethel!



Music appreciation: in the spring term we'll be looking at the music of Spain – from mediaeval songs, through to zarzuela (theatre) and Romantic nationalist works, up to the 20th century. It's an online course, so there's plenty of room – come and join us! <https://www.rhacc.ac.uk/course/music-appreciation> And to get you in the mood, here's a concert of Spanish Christmas music – yum! Live from the Wigmore Hall on Monday evening, available after that: <https://wigmore-hall.org.uk/whats-on/stile-antico-202012211300>

And a one-off session: RHACC is running some one-off online sessions in January, covering a wide variety of arts subjects. I'll be doing a listening guide to Vivaldi's Four Seasons – keep watching the website for more info.



Have a lovely, safe Christmas, listen to lots of music, and we'll re-connect in the new year.

Janet x