



The Gentlemen Songsters Male Voice Choir

Registered Charity No 1106045

Songsters

Newsletter Spring 2011



Contact details

www.gsmvc.org.uk

gsmvchoir@gmail.com

07802 396585

Welcome to the Spring 2011 edition of Songsters
the newsletter of the Gentlemen Songsters Male Voice Choir

**OUR NEW CHAIRMAN Spring Concert 7.30pm 26th March 2011
at Dudley Concert Hall**

Our constitution provides for an annual election of both Chairman and Vice- Chairman, both of whom may serve in their respective roles for a maximum continuous period of two years

Following our recent Annual General Meeting, we are pleased to announce that Peter (Pete) Hawthorne C.B.E. Has been elected as Chairman for 2011. He has been a choir member for ten years, and has recently retired from his employment in education. Our new Vice-Chairman is distinguished local businessman, Ken Crane

We look forward to our year (or two!) under Pete's and Ken's stewardship.



Peter Hawthorne C.B.E.

Once again we are delighted to be able to promote one of our concerts with a high profile special guest. On this occasion **Faryl Smith** will be on stage with us.

Faryl shot to fame as a very talented young soprano in Britain's Got Talent in 2008. Since then (and she's still only 15) she has duetted with José Carreras, appeared at the Royal Variety Performance, sung at the last two Wembley Cup Finals, appeared on Songs of Praise and in many other concerts and events

In her spare time, she is studying for her GCSE's and is continuing with her vocal coaching.



Faryl Smith

Our good friend, **Adrian Goldberg**, of Radio WM and Radio Five Live fame will be the compère at this concert. We are certain that it will be an excellent concert, and we look forward to seeing you there.

Tickets are priced at £15.00, and can be purchased online at www.dudley.gov.uk/entertainment, or by ringing 01384 812812 or 01384 838863

Do you like Loose Women?

For those of you who watch daytime television, you may be familiar with the lunchtime programme **Loose Women**. One of the panellists of that programme is the well-known soprano, Lesley Garrett.

Lesley's early operatic career included the Wexford Festival, Welsh National Opera, Opera North, and Glyndebourne before she joined the English National Opera in 1984, where she won critical acclaim. She is now a member of their Board of Directors.

Lesley sang with Bryan Ferry, The Eurythmics and Mick Hucknall in the grounds of the Royal Observatory Greenwich to celebrate the arrival of the new century. Later in 2000, her autobiography was published, she appeared at the first-ever **Classical Brit Awards**, and also performed the very last **Abide With Me** at the old Wembley Stadium.

She joined Classic FM as a weekly presenter, took part in the inauguration ceremony for Cunard's QM2, and has appeared in many TV shows including **Strictly Come Dancing**, **Who Do You Think You Are?**, **Comic Relief Does Fame Academy**. She also took the title role in a production of **The Merry Widow**, and and later as Mother Abbess in **The Sound of Music**.

Lesley was awarded a CBE in the 2002 New Year's Honours List for Services to Music.

Lesley has the distinct honour (!) of joining us in our Autumn Concert in Dudley Concert Hall on September 17th, and we can guarantee a splendid evening's entertainment.

Tickets will go on sale in May, and will be available through the usual channels, and from choir members.

We suggest that you keep an eye on our website for details of the release of tickets, because we think they will sell like hot cakes.



Summary of forthcoming concerts

Sat 26th February 7.30pm £6.00

St Bartholomew's Church, Penn

Concert in aid of Compton Hospice

Sat 26th March 7.30pm £15.00

Dudley Concert Hall

Spring Concert - with guest artiste Faryl Smith and compere Adrian Goldberg

Sat 23rd April 7.30pm

Dudley Concert Hall

St Georges Day Concert

Wed 11th May 7.30pm

St Mary's Church Kingswinford

Mayor's Charity Concert

Sat 4th June 7.00pm

Worcester Cathedral

English Association of Male Voice Choirs Concert with 300 massed male voices

Sat 25th June 7.30pm

Primrose Hill Church Netherton

Concert for local charity

Sat 2nd July 7.30pm

Gigg Mill Methodist Church Stourbridge

Concert for local charity

Sat 30th July Time T B C ***

Church Farm Belbroughton

"Proms in the Park" -

with a wide selection of international artists

Sat 17th September 7.30pm

Dudley Concert Hall

Autumn Concert - with guest Lesley Garrett and compere Michael Collie

Sat 1st October 7.30pm

St Peter's Church, Kinver

Concert for local charity

Sat 8th October 7.30pm

Holy Trinity Church Wordsley

Joint concert with Builth Wells Male Voice Choir

Thu 10th November 7.30pm

Dudley Concert Hall

Festival of Remembrance

Sat 10th or Sat 17th December 7.30pm ***

Dudley Concert Hall

Christmas Concert

Sun 11th December 2.00pm

Jolly Crispin pub, Gornal

Informal Concert "round the bar"

*** = Details yet to be confirmed

The information above is up-to-date as at the end of January. For further updates see our website www.gsmvc.org.uk. For information on ticket sales and prices see the Future Concerts page on the website, or call our Ticket Hotline **01384 838863**

We're growing - and that's in numbers rather than waist size!

As a result of our recent open evening, and some word-of-mouth publicity, we were pleased to be able to welcome seven new choristers at the start of 2011. Our growth has been such that we are currently having to refrain from adding further Baritones and Basses, but are still "in the market" for a few Tenors - both Firsts and Seconds. If there are such individuals who think they might like to join us, they are very welcome to come to one of our Monday evening rehearsals at Stream Road Methodist Church, Kingswinford to try us out



The above photograph was taken during a concert
in Tenby parish church in May 2010

INCREASING POSTAL COSTS

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