



Phoenixsingers

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – 2020-21

Last year I concluded my report with the following paragraph:

We must trust in the future and wait for the day when we can do what the mythical Phoenix did, coming forth from the ashes, more beautiful than before. COVID-19 is serious, it is a challenge and it is frustrating but it need not be a long term disaster or the death knell of a society like this.

As it happened, we did indeed lose a complete season as far as singing goes but we have still been as active as possible.

Throughout the year, Peter Moorhouse and Keith Barton arranged a series of stimulating and wide ranging interviews with different figures from the world of classical music, with forays into the RSPB at Minsmere and the renowned Emmetts of Peasenhall. In total there were 27 meetings including 3 recitals. Those who joined these meetings on Zoom commented favourable and we extend our thanks to Peter and Keith for taking the initiative and making things happen.

As restrictions began easing in July a social afternoon was held to which many people came. At the same time plans were being made in the hope of a restart in September. That restart was possible and a plan of music from now to the end of the 23-23 season has been outlined.

The investment we make using 'Friends' donations to support singing at Sir Robert Hitcham CEVAP School has also missed a year because of the pandemic. Plans are being made to restart this again now based on a combined choir of boys and girls to be called the 'Firebirds'. It is hoped that more information will be available soon once the teaching is in place. New supporters for this initiative are always welcome through the 'Friends' programme which is run by Peter Moorhouse.

The Phoenix Singers website (www.phoenixsingers.org.uk) is updated constantly with dates and other information about the life of Phoenix Singers. I commend it to you.

We cannot tell how the pandemic will play out this winter but we remain quietly confident of a full season, albeit with restrictions in place.

William Glasse.
Chairman