

Musical Director's Report – Bothwell Philharmonic Choir AGM – 2013

I have much pleasure in delivering my report for session 2012/13. I would like to begin by thanking you all for the many get well messages and cards during my recent illness. I was sorry to be away from the choir for so long and miss out on the concert at New Kilpatrick. However, we are very lucky indeed that Geoffrey Tanti, our accompanist is equally adept at directing as he is at playing and was willing to take the choir during my absence.

This year has been an outstanding year in terms of musical development, money raised for charity, links with the community and the number of new members.

Through the continued support of Tunnock's of Uddingston we were able to develop our music library, support local causes and assist a number of school projects in our community and further afield. We remain sponsors of Craigholme School's Musician of the Year Competition and through this association we have benefited from some outstanding young musicians as our guests, most notably Suzanne Murphy who is undoubtedly a star of the future.

Closer to home we have are supporting our two local primary schools in developing music among their pupils. News of these developments will be announced in the new season.

The choir was delighted to welcome Townhill Primary School as one of our guests at last week's Spring Concert and we look forward to working with them again in December at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. Many thanks to Head Teacher Barbara Sefton for organising this for us and for so expertly preparing the children for the concert.

A number of charities have benefited from our performances throughout the year including the Salvation Army, Help for Heroes, Christian Aid, CHAS, Yorkill and the Poor Clare Monastery here in Bothwell. We are delighted to support these charities and look forward to continuing our links in the future.

The choir, now in its 13th year continues to grow from strength to strength due in no small measure to our dedicated members. Your commitment to the continued musical development of the choir and the support of our charities is hugely appreciated. We look forward to continued growth next season with the introduction of vocal workshops and enhanced sectional rehearsals.

Our dedicated committee who work tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure the smooth running of the choir, its finances and organisation cannot go unrecognised. Particular thanks to:

Anne Laird – Secretary

Isobel Convery – Treasurer

Mary Riley – Librarian

Bernadette Quinn – Ticket Manager

Jessie McPherson – 100 Club Secretary

Fulton Hendry – Vice President

Special and heartfelt thanks must go to our President Jim Crawford, who this evening steps down as President after 10 years of dedicated service to the Bothwell Philharmonic Choir. Jim's enthusiasm and energy have, without doubt ensured the success and growth of our choir and without him the choir would not be in the strong position we are today. Under Jim's leadership we have undertaken successful trips to Paris and Rome and supported 100s of charities. Jim's

knowledge of funding bodies, OSCR and finance has ensured we are in a strong position financially and satisfy all the requirements as a registered charity. All this paper work is completed by Jim and Isobel and for that we all should be hugely grateful. Jim leaves us a President, but we are delighted he remains with us a choir member and ex officio Committee Member.

Many choir members have given willingly and freely of their time to support the choir in a variety of ways. However, I feel it appropriate this evening to single out one member for support above and beyond in the development of the choir's outstanding new website. Hazel Scott has been with us for a relatively short time, but in that time she has shared her considerable IT skills with us in designing and developing our website. Hazel has also kindly volunteered to keep posts up to date and administer the website. This has saved the choir huge financial outlay and administration costs and for this we are very grateful to Hazel.

As we look forward to session 2013/14 with a trip to Malta and continued involvement in our community and beyond, I hope the members continue to enjoy being part of the Bothwell Philharmonic and derive as much pleasure from it as I. I look forward to working with you all and developing our musical skills this coming session and look forward to working with the committee in finding new ways to build on our recent success.

I wish you all a pleasant and restful Summer and look forward to welcoming you all back in August.