

THE BLACKHEATH CHOIR is now in its 40th year. Originally based at the Ascension Church, Dartmouth Row, the choir now centres its activities around St. Margaret's Church, Lee Terrace.

Recent highlights include Vaughan Williams' *A Sea Symphony*, a weekend in Eindhoven including a performance of Jenkins' *Requiem* and Orff's *Carmina Burana* with a Dutch choir, De Toonkunst, three concert performances of Verdi's *Don Carlo* with Midsummer Opera, and Brahms' *Ein Deutsches Requiem*. Further details of past programmes are on our website. Plans for 2011-12 include Elgar's rarely heard early masterpiece *King Olaf* at the Blackheath Halls with the South London Singers and the Sidcup Symphony Orchestra.

The choir uses professional soloists, but occasionally members take small solo parts. There are often opportunities for members to take part in other local or regional musical activities. In addition to its main concerts the choir gives a less formal seasonal concert at St Margaret's in mid-December and sings Christmas carols at Canary Wharf underground station; both these events raise money for charities chosen by the choir. The choir also runs various social events and workshops.

Patricia Williams Musical Director Patricia Williams, who has now completed twenty years as the choir's Music Director, says: "Joining a choir is an excellent way to develop and enjoy a love of music. Rehearsals are stimulating and there is nothing quite like the excitement of giving a really good performance. Shared interests also make for a friendly atmosphere. Any new members will be welcome, and we are very keen to encourage younger members (for whom bursaries are available), as people often miss these experiences once they leave school or college."

INFORMATION Rehearsals are on Tuesday nights from 7.30 to 9.30 in the Kingswood Hall, Kingswood Place, Lee, SE13 with Patricia Williams, Musical Director and Joan Taylor, rehearsal accompanist. Rehearsals follow normal term times and start this year on 7th September. Membership. The Choir is an independent mixed chorus of eighty voices, with room to expand. There are no formal auditions but new members may be given a short vocal assessment. A subscription is payable annually (£120) or termly (£44) with concessions for students, registered unemployed and state pensioners. Bursaries are available for young singers who are under 25 and unwaged

Contacts Enquiries to the Membership Secretary on 020 8853 4263 or 020 8318 6187.

Programme 2011 -2012

Autumn 2011

Sun 20 Nov Purcell: *Welcome to all the pleasures*
Hummel: *Mass No.1 in B flat*
Handel: *Dettingen Te Deum*
with St Paul's Sinfonia
Fri 9 Dec Christmas concert for charity (7.30)
Wed 14 Dec Carol singing at Canary Wharf (5.30 – 7.30) + meal

Spring 2012

Sun 1 April at Blackheath Halls
Elgar: *King Olaf*
with South London Singers and Sidcup Symphony Orchestra

Summer 2012

Sun 1 July Jongen: *Messe en l'honneur du Saint-Sacrament*
Shearing: *Songs and Sonnets*
Horovitz: *Captain Noah and his Floating Zoo*

All concerts take place in St Margaret's Church, Lee, and start at 7.30 pm unless otherwise stated. Please check the web site (www.blackheathchoir.org.uk) for other venues and start times or telephone for tickets. Tickets are available from any member of the choir or by telephoning 020 8852 1723. Some tickets may be available at the door on the day of the concert. It is advisable to telephone first to avoid disappointment