

FIRHOUSE SINGERS NEWSLETTER

September 2014



Choir Committee

Emma Higgins

Chair

Helen Mulholland

Secretary

Ted Ryan

Treasurer

Clare McCaul

Martin Galvin

Don Coughlan

We welcome all back after the summer break

The committee met on Monday to plan the year ahead and the following matters were discussed

1. Performances

On 10th October there will be a concert in the Community School with the Norwegian Choir for Mental Health Week. A decision is to be made as to whom the proceeds are donated to.

Ray has looked into the Booking for St. Endas GAA Club for a get-together eats after the concert with the choirs.

We need to organise the Publicising of the event – get signs made – posters and also to organise prizes for the raffle etc.

We hope to sing in Grafton Street on a date to be arranged – have to await licence approval.

On 6th December we will join the Knocklyon Concert Band for a Concert in Knocklyon Church.

We will have all the dates for the Christmas concerts by Halloween.

2. Weekend away

We hope to organise a weekend away for the spring of 2016 when the Firhouse Singers will celebrate 40 years.

Emma is looking into hotels in Waterford and details will be announced at a later date when we have more information.

3. Finances

The accounts for year 2013/14 showed an excess of expenditure over income of €86 which maintains our reserve. We can therefore keep the choir subscription at **€60 euro per year**.

This must be paid as soon as possible either in **two instalments of €30 euro** before end of November and the second by end of March or **€60** before end of November.

It would very much help the collectors if you could put your subs into an envelope with the amount (**€30 or €60**) and your name and give to one of the collectors.

SCORES:

Ray will order scores from time to time which also must be paid for - you all have a small credit (€0.90) from the €5 you paid earlier in the year but for new scores we will need to collect a further €5 - we will advise separately on this in the coming weeks.

4. New ways of Learning/Revision

Ray hopes to do audio files for all new pieces and for some rehearsals to be split into groups and learn our part from the audio file and then bring it together with the other parts. Newer members who might like audio files for some existing pieces we did before they joined should ask Ray or a committee member. Obviously it would take a lot of time for him to do all pieces but could probably do a certain number of some of the more difficult pieces.

Also we hope to be able to do concerts without scores as far as possible - it invariably leads to an enhanced performance.

5 Suggestion Box/ Choir Repertoire

We intend to place a Suggestion Box beside the attendance book to enable members to indicate their preferences for pieces from our existing repertoire (a copy will be emailed shortly) and any suggestions for pieces they would like the choir to add to the repertoire - they would need to check (or get someone to check) that there is a suitable SATB (Soprano, Alto, Tenor Bass) arrangement available - you can check on on Sheetmusic Plus or Musicroom websites.

Any other suggestions or comments including any areas of concern to members welcome - these can also be raised with Ray or a member of the Committee.

6. AGM

It has been a few years since last Annual General Meeting so we propose to have one in October, after the Concert. Further notice of this will follow in October.