



CAPELETTA

No 13, August 1996

Editor's Notes

The start of the 1996/97 Leith Hill Festival Season is fast approaching - a bit too fast for me, as I have been caught out and should have had this edition of *Capeletta* finished a couple of weeks ago.

I think the new Season is going to be a very busy one, with two totally unfamiliar main works to learn (unfamiliar to me, at least), which will be a big challenge. It will be a particularly busy season for me, as I intend also joining Beare Green and Newdigate for the year in order to sing the Elgar Music Makers. This is the work which was the reason for Gill and I joining Capel - we were singing with Mickleham (then in Division II), and Division I were given the Music Makers, a long time favourite of mine, so we defected to Capel, fully intending to return to Mickleham the following season. However, we found that Capel was such a friendly choir that we never returned - we still get accused of desertion by Mickleham members! I don't think we'll be deserting Capel this time around however.

Enough of my reminiscences - now what about yours? - Christine Wallace has had a good idea for a series of articles in *Capeletta* along the lines of '*Desert Island Discs*'. She suggested that Capel members should have the opportunity of listing their favourite records (say six?) with their reasons, where they first heard the work, and any special significance it has for them, *etc*. I shall put the names of all the contributors in a hat and print the winning article in the next *Capeletta*, so get thinking and writing about your favourite music - any sort of music: classical, pop, shows.....

Note the report of the LHMF General Committee meeting in this edition - the recommendations which were approved could result in the most significant change in the structure of the Festival for many years.

I look forward to meeting you all again on September 9th.

Ian Moir

Dates for 1996/97

September 9th
October 11th
December 14th
December 16th
Thursday 3rd April 1997

First practice of Season
Leith Hill AGM
Capel Christmas Concert
Capel Christmas Dinner
Division I Festival Day

For other Festival dates, see the Schedule enclosed with this *Capeletta*.

Capel Choral Summer Concert 1996

This event was socially and financially a great success. We had a large audience and made a sizeable profit. It was particularly nice to have singers from other choirs (Holmbury and Beare Green & Newdigate) join us for the event.

Musically the concert consisted of an enjoyable programme of English music, the main work being Parry's *Blest Pair of Sirens*. This piece we found demanding to sing, and difficulties arose from lack of tenors where the part divided; however, we coped, and hope the audience enjoyed it as much as we did.

There was a tremendous team of helpers behind the scenes, especially providers of food and washing-up - special thanks to them.

Hopefully this event is now firmly enshrined in the Choral Society calendar.

Christine Wallace

Summer Concert - the Video

I recorded the 1996 Summer Concert on video. If anybody would like a copy, let me have a VHS tape with at least 1 hour of space on it and I will copy the original on to it for you. One word of warning - it is rather revealing and we could probably learn a lot about all aspects of our singing from it!

Ian Moir

Surrey Festival Choir Concert

This concert took place in July in Guildford Cathedral. The programme of Beethoven's *Mass in C* and Rossini's *Stabat Mater* was beautifully sung by the choirs, conducted by Peter Wright. Despite the problems of distance between choir and conductor and orchestra, similar to Charterhouse, the sound was glorious. The tremendous rain during the day and thunder during the concert did nothing to dampen the enthusiasm of the audience. There were a number of Capel singers in the Choir and quite a number in the audience. This is an event that we should all try and support.

Christine Wallace

Music for the 1997 Leith Hill Festival

In case you have mislaid your copy of the January *Festival News*, here is a list of the Division I music for the coming Season:

Full Chorus:	Gloria	John Rutter
	Magnificat	Paul Patterson
Part Song:	The Dark-Eyed Sailor	Vaughan Williams
Ladies' Song:	The Lord is my Shepherd	Schubert
Men's Song:	By the Sea	Schubert
Madrigal:	Come away Sweet Love	Thomas Greaves
Ensemble:	Good Wine	E J Moeran

Notes from a LHMF Special General Committee Meeting 11th June 1996

The Meeting was called because, over the years, the structure and names of the Festival Divisions had been questioned at various times, and increasingly so recently. Eleven responses to letters on the subject to choir chairpersons had been received, and a Working Party consisting of Bill Llewellyn, David Leach and Renee Stewart had been set up and had made recommendations. Changes approved at the Meeting will be applied to the 1997/98 Season.

The Discussion Paper produced by the Working Party was presented by David Leach and the Chairman, Deirdre Hicks outlined the responses of the Executive Committee to the Paper, which also covered the question of whether the choirs should be allowed to choose the Festival music. The Committee was 'concerned' about the latter but was in favour of dropping the word 'Advanced' from the Division name. These recommendations were supported by a letter from Brian Kay.

A long, mostly interesting, sometimes heated, discussion then took place in which various ideas were put forward, *e.g.*

- Divisions should be named in a way which did not suggest 'top' or 'bottom' groups, perhaps after composers or flowers, *etc.*
- It was unnecessary to feel that movement between divisions implied promotion or demotion.
- Why have a competition if you didn't want to label choirs Good, Better, Best?
- Why not leave things as they are?
- Let choirs choose from given sets of music each year and decide in which group they wished to compete?
- Music selection and allocation should remain as it is.

A set of proposals was eventually formulated and carried:

- 1) That the Music Committee should continue to choose the music in the same way as it has in the past.
- 2) That the word 'Division' should be dropped and Groups A, B and C substituted.
- 3) That the Groups should operate for an experimental period of two years.
- 4) That a system should be formulated by the Executive Committee for movement between the Groups.

The Executive Committee is to consider the system for movement between Groups and report back at the AGM or the next General meeting.

Peter Carlton

Peter Carlton stepped down from the post of Treasurer to the Society at the AGM. Peter was elected Treasurer in 1979, following the resignation of the previous incumbent, Gillian Ashwood.

Peter has, for all these years, efficiently organised our finances, and cajoled and demanded subscriptions from us with patience and good humour. Our warmest thanks to him for his work and best wishes to him in his 'retirement'.

Music Folders

The music folders continue to split. I would remind you that, as a result, we have decided to only issue the remaining sound ones for concerts, so if you happen to still have a folder in your possession, could you please return same to Ian Moir.

Notes from Capel Choral Society AGM, 15th April 1996

The original application for **Charitable Status** had gone astray in the post. The Chairman had sent another copy and a reply was awaited.

The Treasurer, Peter Carlton, reported that the Society had made a large loss in 1995/96, due in part to fewer members and losses on the Summer and Christmas Concerts.

The Chairman, Christine Wallace, thanked the Choir and Committee, and particularly Alan Drake and Anthea Smallwood for their support and hard work during the past Season, also Peter Carlton for his long service to the Choir as Treasurer. She announced that, with the agreement of the Choir, she proposed taking a sabbatical for the 1996/97 Season, due to the pressure of her degree course.

The Conductor, Alan Drake, was pleased with the Christmas Concert and the Festival - he thought we did well to come second overall. He was in favour of the 'own choice' class being dropped. Alan hoped for more voices in the Choir next Season when the music would be something of an unknown quantity.

Peter Carlton retired from the post of **Treasurer** after many years. Liz Weavin and Vicky Messum were proposed for the post and Liz Weavin was elected. Nick Ward was elected **Bass Representative** and Elspeth White would take over the **Tea Rota**.

There is an urgent need to increase the **Choir's funds**. A fund-raising sub-committee was proposed and Liz Weavin offered to form a team. However, most were in favour of simply raising the Subscription to £25 plus the LHMf entry fee. Under 18's and OAP's would continue to be half-price. The **Conductor's and Accompanist's retainers** were to be reviewed also.

In **AOB** it was revealed that the LHMf General Committee would be discussing setting limits on the number of singers per choir, renaming the Divisions and encouraging regular movement between the Divisions.

(A review of a GC meeting to discuss this is printed elsewhere in this *Capelletta*.)

The **Division I Festival Day** would be a Thursday in 1997, although it was the Division's turn for the Saturday. Christine Wallace would write to complain about this.

It was suggested that Capel Choral had a '**warm up**' on the day of the Festival as Bookham did this year.

It was reported that **Dorking Halls** had circulated a questionnaire which suggested that there were moves to oust the Festival from its regular date in the week after Easter.

Capel Choral Society Committee

For the benefit of new members, and some not so new, the Choir Committee now consists of:

Chairman:	Christine Wallace	Soprano Representative:	Shona Hoad
Secretary:	Anne Vanner	Alto Representative:	Enid Moore
Treasurer:	Liz Weavin	Tenor Representative:	Simon Weavin
Conductor:	Alan Drake	Bass Representative:	Nick Ward
Accompanist:	Anthea Smallwood	Music Librarian	Barbara Philpott
Press and Publicity:	Ian Moir		

If you need any help, or have any matters to raise, speak to your Voice Rep.