



January 2008

Dear Friend,

The London Oriana Choir wishes you a very happy and successful New Year. In this newsletter, we look back at the fantastic recording session of Armstrong Gibbs' *Odysseus* and the choir's performance at the Royal Festival Hall. And of course, we also look forward to our three forthcoming concerts.

A glorious end to 2007

At the end of November 2007, the choir recorded the little known choral symphony *Odysseus* by Armstrong Gibbs, with the prestigious BBC Concert Orchestra. The recording took place over a weekend in the spacious concert hall of Watford Town Hall. David Drummond, the orchestra, the choir and the two exceptional soloists, Susan Gritton & Mark Stone, worked intensely on what promises to be an excellent recording which will certainly reach, if not surpass, the level of quality of the Oriana's previous recording of Walford Davies' *Everyman*. *Odysseus* is due to be released in the Spring and we will of course inform you as soon as it becomes available.

The Messiah at the Royal Festival Hall on December 14th 2007 was nothing short of a tremendous success. The concert, promoted by Raymond Gubbay, was a sell-out and the shouts of "Bravo" and the standing ovation at the end of the performance said it all. Raymond Gubbay himself stayed for the duration of the concert and said that we were a really excellent choir!

Evening Service

Sunday 2 March, 6pm
St Paul's Cathedral

A slight change of programme for this event in the exceptional setting of St Paul's Cathedral: the performance of *The Cry: A Requiem for the Lost Child* by Adrian Snell previously announced in this newsletter has been postponed to November 2008. Instead, the London Oriana Choir will be singing a selection of a capella pieces on the theme of motherhood, to mark Mothers' Day.

The service will start at 6pm and the entrance is free.

Oriana Favourites

Saturday 17 May, 7.30pm

St Peter's Eaton Square

This concert will feature some of the favourite a capella pieces of the London Oriana choir.

☞ If you have fond memories of a capella pieces sang by the choir, that you would love to hear again, here's your chance to have your say: email me your favourites by the end of January and we will include them in the count for the top 10.

The concert will begin at 7.30pm. Ticket prices will be confirmed nearer the date. You will be able to buy your tickets as usual by emailing our Ticket Secretary at tickets@londonoriana.com. Don't forget to claim your Friend's discount.

Rachmaninoff: Vespers

Thursday 10 July

Southwark Cathedral

We hope that most of you will be able to join us for this last concert of the 2007/2008 season. We will be performing the beautiful Rachmaninoff *Vespers* as well as "*When David Heard*" by the up and coming American composer Eric Whitacre and "*Night*" by the choir's favourite composer Richard Allain.

☞ As most of you will agree, Southwark Cathedral is a fantastic venue which makes it attractive for sponsorship. This is why we would like to appeal once more to your generosity: if yourself or someone you know would be interested in sponsoring this concert and/or placing an advert in the programme, please contact our Co-Chair, Fiona Tong at fiona@fdtong.plus.com.

Thanks to all of you for your continued support to the choir, and from myself again, all the best for 2008.

Kind regards,

Anne-Sophie Lanier
Friends Secretary