**SURREY FESTIVAL CHOIR**

www.surreyfestivalchoir.org 19 Bloxham Road

members@surreyfestivalchoir.org Cranleigh

01483 275513 GU6 7EY

January 2014

**SFC Concert. *War and Peace.* Guildford Cathedral. July 12th 2014.**

Dear Singers,

I believe that we have the perfect ingredients for an enthralling and memorable concert in 2014: a charismatic, experienced and inspirational conductor in Marcus Pashley; a programme of fascinating and stirring music, Haydn’s *Nelson Mass* and Vaughan Williams’s *Dona Nobis Pacem*, to mark the centenary of the start of the Great War; a prestigious venue to attract a summer audience. In addition, we are in discussions with *Help for Heroes*, with a view to collaborating with them.

The final, and most important, ingredient is you. We need you in large numbers to make this a truly spectacular debut for Marcus. We also need your commitment early; unless we have recruited 120 singers by mid-March, we cannot be certain that this will be a financially viable undertaking and may have to cancel. You can enrol on our website at surreyfestivalchoir.org/register.pl (if you sang with us previously that will save you some work and will also reduce our admin. effort) or, if you prefer, you can return the attached form to me with your cheque.

The enrolment fee is £35 (£45 if you are enrolling after 15th March). Students over 18 in full or part time education pay nothing. There is no additional charge for hire of vocal scores and there are no auditions. We urge all tax-paying members to sign the enrolment form - or click the relevant button online- so that we can claim Gift Aid (in accordance with current HMRC rules we are obliged to treat part of the fee as a training benefit).

Rehearsals, accompanied by Jean Douglas Tutt, will be on Wednesdays, May 14, 21, June 4, 11, 18, 25, July 2, 9 at Millmead Baptist Centre, starting at 7.45 p.m. There is plenty of parking available in nearby public car parks. We are also planning another Saturday afternoon workshop on 7th June at East Horsley Village Hall - open to non-members too - which will include a short talk by Marcus and a chance to explore the music in more detail than Wednesday rehearsals allow.

E-mail is our principal method of communicating with members, so **please include your e-mail address** when enrolling. We never reveal email addresses to third parties or other members; our full Privacy Policy can be viewed on the website.

Concert tickets will be priced at £15, £20 and £25, available at rehearsals. Please help us sell tickets and ensure the financial future of SFC, even if you will not be singing. We expect those performing to sell at least two tickets. If you are not already a Patron or Friend, please also consider this as a way of supporting the choir. Details are on the website.

We always need volunteers to help our small friendly committee to run the choir; if you would be willing to contribute some of your time, please indicate this on the recruitment form.

Finally, we look forward to hearing from you, seeing old friends and welcoming new singers in May. However, without sufficient enrolments in good time, we will not be able to go ahead. **Please enrol without delay!**

Yours sincerely,



Liz Scott, Membership Secretary, Surrey Festival Choir.