

the  
colinton &  
merchiston  
choir



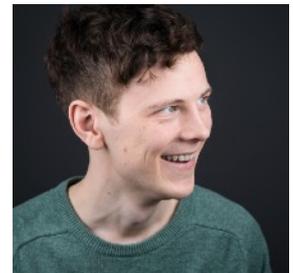
NEW START  
NEW CONDUCTOR  
COME JOIN US !

# NEWSLETTER

Colinton and Merchiston Community Choir has some exciting news: we have appointed a new Conductor / Musical Director, our rehearsals resume in September 2022 and we have a Concert for Christmas planned for December.

## Biography of a New Conductor - He's ours !

Timothy Coleman is a conductor and tenor. He moved to Edinburgh in April, having grown up in Aberdeen. He studied PPE at Oxford University, and spent five years as a freelance choral singer and lay clerk with the Choir of New College, Oxford. Most recently he graduated from the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama with a Masters in Vocal Performance.



He has been a Fellow with the National Youth Choir of Great Britain, and a Young Conducting Scholar with Sing for Pleasure. He has previously conducted the Athenaeum Singers, Risca Choral Society and the Taffs Well Community Choir, amongst others.

Timothy is also active as a singer, currently as a lay clerk with the Choir of St Mary's Cathedral. Recent operatic performances include premiering Julia Plaut's *The Y Knot* (Grenadier) and Michael Betteridge's *Across the Sky* (Aleks) for the Cheltenham Festival, as well as singing in the chorus for both Northern Ireland Opera's *Die Fledermaus* and *Rigoletto*, and for Welsh National Opera's *Dead Man Walking*. Concert performances include step-out solos in the Armonico Consort's tour of Bach's *Mass in B minor*, including at St David's Hall, Cardiff.

In his spare time, Timothy is a keen cook and hill-walker. He also got married very recently - on Wednesday 27th July.

an exciting  
future awaits  
our choir as we  
resume  
rehearsals in  
our usual  
space, retune  
our voices,  
meet old  
friends, and  
invite others to  
come and sing  
with us

## What's New?

### Here's a Message from Tim

*Dear Colinton and Merchiston Community Choir,*

*Hello! I am Tim Coleman, and I'm so excited to be working with you all from September. I know the last two years have been really hard for you, as for every choir, and I can't wait to help you all get back to singing.*

*The plan is to start with an 'Open Rehearsal', which anyone at all can come along to, to see if they enjoy the choir. We will work on Vivaldi's Gloria, since it's simple and fun and most of you will know it already. And if you don't, that's great too! It'll be a slow and steady introduction. We will sing the Vivaldi at our December concert, so it'll be a good start for that.*

*I'm also keen to get your feedback on my conducting and direction after a few weeks. I want to be able to make the rehearsals as fun, helpful and enjoyable as I can, and listening to you all is the best way I know of doing so. More on this at the first open rehearsal.*

*Lastly, one of the things I have done with other choirs is present 'Come and Sing' Days. The choir and guests (it's open to the public) come along for a whole day, generally on a Saturday, and work through a big new piece and try to learn it in a day. They are great fun and very exciting, I think! I would be interested in whether there is an appetite for this sort of event in the choir. So again, I (and the committee) will try to get feedback on this, sooner rather than later.*

*That's all from me. Have a good August, and looking forward to meeting you all in September!*

*Tim Coleman*

## Choir Finances

The last approved accounts were those for the year ended 31 July 2019. At Christmas 2019 we had a very successful concert and, though the Easter 2020 concert was cancelled, we managed to break even for the year and our General Fund reserves at the end of July 2020 totalled £4,098.

At Christmas 2020, ever hopeful that we would soon be singing again, and with Philip preparing notes for a session on Elgar's *The Music Makers*, we gave Christmas gifts to Philip and Morley. Together with ongoing website and Zoom costs, this resulted in a deficit for the year to 31 July 2021, and reserves were reduced to £3,240.

This year, to 31 July 2022, the draft accounts reflect the ongoing admin costs and the cost of the Socials, so that General Fund reserves now stand at £2,665.

Since Philip's demission, the Committee has liaised directly with Merchiston Castle School and we are very lucky to have been promised the use of Merchiston music school for weekly rehearsals, the Memorial Hall for concerts, and the provision of music, where possible, from the school's music library, all free of charge.

However, the School will no longer bear the cost of conductor fees. As of now, our subscriptions need to cover the fixed costs of rehearsals and concerts, namely conductor and accompanist fees, hire of music, and soloist fees. Inevitably the annual subscription has to be increased.

Your Committee has set the annual subscription at:

- £85 per annum (a lot less than many other choirs),  
or
- £45 for each of the autumn and spring terms,  
or
- £30 for September, plus standing order payments of  
£10 per month from October to March inclusive,  
whichever suits you best.

*Rehearsals resume on*

**Monday**

**12 September at 7 pm.**



*We'll take a break on*

**17 October.**

*Christmas Concert date  
to be confirmed.*

*AGM to be held on*

**24 October.**



*We look forward to  
welcoming you back to  
choir, new members too.  
Please spread the word  
to help us recruit?*



*Our new relationship  
with the School  
necessitates an increase  
in annual subscription.  
Undeterred, we now  
offer a range of payment  
options.*

## Blast from the Past

Around 30 members joined us last April for an Easter Social in Dreghorn Loan Hall.

Liz and Jean's music-themed quiz with contributions from Philip and Audrey - who played piano to accompany her section - certainly stretched our minds. The winners were duly rewarded with chocolate eggs.

Donald MacKintosh, a former choir chairman, then led us expertly in a singalong of songs from musicals - a perfect end to a lovely evening. Here's hoping for many more, Rhian !



## Positions Vacant: Your Committee needs you !

Ronnie, having led us most conscientiously through the first two years of the pandemic, has retired as Chairman. Liz Mackie is standing in as Chair till October's AGM. Judith has resigned as Librarian, and our successful Concert Promoter, Morag, left us last year to join another choir. As for the Secretarial role, it has expanded somewhat and Alison would very much appreciate a teammate.

In the interim Jean Murray, soprano, and Nigel Fairhead, bass, have joined the Committee. Could you help too? The Committee would very much appreciate expressions of interest and the opportunity to discuss options with you. Morag will happily offer advice and support to help a new concert promoter find their feet.

## Do let us know ...

If you no longer wish to sing with us after our protracted 2 1/2 year break, please do let Alison know a.s.a.p. Thanks.

If you're interested in joining our choir, we'd be pleased to hear from you via one of our members or by email. You'd be most welcome to join us at our 'Open Rehearsal' on 12 September starting at 7 pm, slightly earlier than our usual 7.30 start to give us time to issue scores.

If Covid remains a concern, please be assured that the rehearsal room will be extremely well ventilated.

 [admin@colintonchoir.org](mailto:admin@colintonchoir.org)  [www.colintonchoir.org](http://www.colintonchoir.org) Find us on 