

## Message from the Music Director

Welcome back to ADMS! We have a very exciting season ahead of us. I was so sorry not to be with you for what turned out to be a really successful evening's music-making thanks to the quick thinking of Tony Bradley. Still, I am raring to go and very excited about the new season.

The first thing to tell you, of particular interest to choir members, is that we have a new member of music staff on board to work with the choir – James McKelvey whom we welcome as Associate Conductor. Those of you around in December will remember he took several rehearsals for me in my absence. James has an enormous amount to offer the choir. He will be my regular deputy when I'm away, and be involved in other ways, complimenting the work John and I are currently doing. James will be doing a couple of rehearsals for each long rehearsal stint leading towards a concert, focussing on aspects of vocal technique. There is also scope for getting him involved more by doing weekend workshops with the choir .

We are very keen to build up the Friends' scheme in order to build on our audience. In the difficult financial climate, our biggest problem is attracting a big enough audience to pay for our concerts. Please do have a think as to who might be interested in joining. We shall be offering special incentives to members who recruit friends. We are also keen to recruit new members to both choir and orchestra, and again, there will be special membership incentives to anybody who successfully recruits and adds to our numbers.

The programme for the year is a very exciting one. For the choir, we have some real blockbuster works and have finally managed to programme Messiah. It will be wonderful to explore this work with a choir who come to this work with a degree of freshness. In the summer we shall be combining forces with Didcot Choral Society for *Carmina Burana*. In addition to this, we have some very exciting works for the orchestra to perform – we welcome back Eva Doroszkowska to play Mozart's D minor piano concerto and shall also be tackling the Saint-Saëns *Organ Symphony*, a wonderful opportunity to showcase John Oxlade.

I feel with such an exciting programme and all the incentives I have mentioned we have a wonderful opportunity to build our membership in both choir and orchestra as well as to encourage new audience members.

See you all at the first rehearsal!

Alex.