



Press Release

Blackbird Leys Choir: A 5th Birthday Celebration Concert

New members invited to “Sing Gloria!” in the presence of the celebrated Ivor Setterfield

The Blackbird Leys Choir, star of Five TV’s The Singing Estate series, is marking its fifth birthday by staging a celebration concert in January.

Since the TV programme in 2006 the choir has continued and flourished as an important part of the Blackbird Leys community. In order to celebrate in style, it is opening its doors to anyone who would like to sing Vivaldi’s Gloria with them in their birthday concert.

Anyone interested who can sing is welcome to attend the choir’s first regular Wednesday rehearsal on January 5th or to come to a ‘crash course’ on Saturday 8th January 10 – 4pm at the Blackbird Leys Community Centre, OX4 6HW.

Vivaldi’s Gloria will be the choir’s most ambitious work yet and will be performed with orchestral accompaniment at the Jacqueline du Pré Concert Hall, St Hilda’s College, Oxford, within a programme of popular classical works on 22nd January 2011 at 7pm.

The glittering event will be attended by some prestigious guests including the High Sheriff of Oxfordshire, and the choir’s original conductor from the Five TV series, Ivor Setterfield, who has since continued his television career on the BBC series Maestro. Programme notes will also be kindly written by the famous cellist Julian Lloyd Webber.

The nation watched the choir’s adventures in The Singing Estate, a 4-part documentary in 2006, as 40 ordinary people from Oxford flew to Italy to sing O Sole Mio at the Verona coliseum, and travelled to London to sing O Fortuna at the Royal Albert Hall. That year they were also invited to sing for the Queen at Buckingham Palace. The concert will recreate some of the prestigious activities of their first years, when venues included Oxford’s Sheldonian Theatre and Ashmolean Museum.

If people are interested in singing with the choir, they should contact Jeremy Renals, chair of the choir on committee@blackbirdleyschoir.org or telephone 07765 480625.

The choir was managed by a large staff during filming, and has been supported generously by bodies local to Oxford since. However, with grant support from the Oxfordshire Community Foundation, all organisation is now handled by the choir members themselves.

ENDS

Notes to editor:

Original choir member and current chair, Jeremy Renals, is available for interview. Please contact him for further details and for print quality images. For other press enquiries please contact Jo Ross on jo@ocmevents.org 07947 107254

He hopes

- to bring new members into the choir
- to receive invitations from churches across the county for the choir to perform,
- and, of course, to attract ticket sales.

<http://www.blackbirdleyschoir.org/>

Event details

- Jacqueline du Pre Music Building, St Hilda's College, Cowley Place, Oxford. OX4 1DY
- Saturday 22nd January 2011, 7.00 – 9.30pm.
- Tickets in aid of the Blackbird Leys Choir: £15 / £10



The Blackbird Leys Choir is supported by the Oxfordshire Community Foundation.