

PRESIDENT'S LETTER 2008

Welcome to our Annual Concert. This is proving to be a year of many changes for the Choir and this evening is indeed like a new year's eve. Our Musical Director is making his last appearance in that role. During John's tenure the emphasis on voice production has been noticeable and the choir has moved steadily forward. Now John has decided he wishes to step down from his duties. We are sure this concert will be a fitting tribute to his work with the choristers.

Meanwhile, even as we bid our fond farewells, we look to the future. The Choir officers, on learning of John's decision, moved rapidly and were delighted to be able to announce that he would be succeeded by Aled Phillips. Aled has "form" with the Choir, both as chorister - one of the "three tenors" in Italian Salad - and as Deputy Musical Director under Tudor Jones. He has widened his experience with other choirs and gained a national scholarship, giving him huge opportunities of which he took full advantage. I am sure he is ambitious for the Choir and we expect further success under his leadership. Other backroom changes have seen the retirement as Chairman of Norman Davies after many busy years, well done Norman. This baton has been passed along the second tenors and picked up by David Thomas.

Both our soloists tonight are making their debuts with the choir. The performances which they have given elsewhere have engendered much excitement and we look forwards to hearing them. Neither are strangers to Wales, Elizabeth Watts performing in the Cardiff Young Singer of the World and Adriano Graziani at Llangollen (and, of course, he originally came from South Wales). We hope they both enjoy performing for you this evening.

So, sit back and enjoy tonight. Give our soloists a warm 'Rhos Concert' welcome and give John Daniel a last night to remember.

Then drive safely home and look forwards to next year!