

## **Watsonian Community Choir, Annual Report 2019-2020**

The Watsonian Community Choir had a very successful season notwithstanding the obvious curtailment of activity in March. It is now at capacity, with a waiting list for new members, including men! Though it means that some people are disappointed to have to wait to join the Choir, it is wonderful that the response to this new Section has been so overwhelmingly positive.

In November, about half an hour after the Rugby World Cup 2019 Final finished, the choir had their first "Singing Saturday", a day long rehearsal with guest musical directors Rosemary McKerchar and Douglas McCallum adding their expertise, insight and voices to the day. "Singing Saturday" culminated with some much needed refreshment at the Merlin pub.

The Winter Concert on 7th December at Polwarth Parish Church, in conjunction with George Watson's College Caritas Strings, was a sell out and a huge success, raising £1200 which was divided between the George Watson's College Family Foundation and the charity EMMS International.

2020 was due to be a busy and productive time with a performance of Carmina Burana in the Usher Hall with GWC choirs set for March and our own concert set for May. Circumstances dictated that these performances were not to be.

Each Tuesday during lockdown, a "Tuesday Tune" video was sent out with a short vocal warm up, a brief rehearsal of one of our items of repertoire, and a recording of one of the pieces we have performed in a previous concert. This helped to keep choir members motivated and connected with each other, and also brought back some poignant memories. Sadly, due to the ongoing situation and restrictions regarding singing at present, the Choir is unable to resume physically for the time being but we hope to continue with some form of digital rehearsal over the coming months.

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