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DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Question Time 3

3 February 2010

7-9pm

Waterloo 1901 Arts Club

Book your place NOW!

London *Harmony*

Your essential guide to music-making in London
January 2010

New Year, New Questions

Come to MM London Question Time 3

What's the difference between Making Music and Making Music London?

Where can I find a listing of rehearsal venues available for hire?

How do I update my group details on the London website?

How much should we pay our Musical Director?

What else can we get out of our MM membership?

These are some of the questions that came up at previous Question Time meetings. If you knew all the answers, congratulations! If not, you may wish to come along to the next Question Time. Turn to page 3 for more information.

A snapshot of the activities featured in this edition...



Chantage



Cantanti Camerati



London Mandolin Festival

London Harmony is also available in a large print format

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Welcome to the January edition of London Harmony. This is our last publication in hard copy; we're going digital from our next edition onwards.

You'll find reports from adventurous visits to Sierra Leone, new initiatives with the British Lung Foundation, feedback and information on The Bernstein Project, as well as a new feature from a guest contributor to London Harmony.

If you've got a different perspective or opinions about music-making that you'd like to air, please send in your comments. We're always grateful for contributions to the newsletter. I can't promise to publish them all, but we do the best we can to represent a broad cross-section of activities and opinions.

Finally, all the best for successful music-making in 2010. We hope to see you at one of our Question Time events and please do not hesitate to get in touch at any time.



Anna Low
Editor London Harmony

Distribution

London Harmony goes out to arts officers in all London boroughs, the Arts Council, and 300 music groups, choirs and orchestras across London. There is also an expanding email list of people who are interested in the voluntary music sector.

London Harmony goes digital!

In the last edition of London Harmony we said that we'd be considering discontinuing the printed version of the magazine in favour of sending out an e-mail with a PDF attachment or a web link to an online magazine, as well as continuing to put it on our website as a free download.

Having received no objections to the suggestion, this edition of LH will be the very last to be printed and posted. This is also in line with a new national policy from Making Music, which aims to save money and become environmentally friendlier.

If we do not have your e-mail address and you would like to continue to receive LH – please do e-mail us straightaway! rdolondon@makingmusic.org.uk

London Harmony comes out in January, May and September each year. If you visit the London website – www.makingmusiclondon.com – you will see that we place all editions of the magazine online and announce the arrival of each new edition in our News & Events section.

Why not make the London website one of your 'favourites' and check in on a regular basis? We also add news and opportunities such as awards and funding schemes here, and it is always worth checking to see if there's something of value to your group.

However, don't forget that London Harmony can be made available in large print and other formats on request, for those who do not use e-mail or who have difficulty in reading from a computer screen. Please telephone the Making Music office on 020 7422 8280.

New Year, New Questions

(continued from front cover)

2009 saw two Question Time events: the first hosted by Southbank Centre with Marshall Marcus, Head of Music, as guest speaker. The debate that followed (along with meetings in the months after) led to a fantastic collaboration and ten MM groups performing in The Bernstein Project 2009/2010 at Southbank. Our second event was held at the top of City Hall with a dramatic view and guest speaker Matt Fretton, who is an event promoter and curator of the innovative This Isn't For You series of concerts.

The format is simple: tea & coffee are provided and a guest speaker discusses an aspect of the music industry, leading into a Q&A session. After a quick break, Development Officers Heather and Tom answer your queries about Making Music, voluntary music in general, fundraising, venue hire, music hire, professionals' fees, etc. We can also let you know where we're up to with the projects and plans we lead for MM London.

You are hereby invited to attend Question Time 3 which will be held on Wednesday 3 February 2010, 7-9pm. We'll welcome as our guest speaker Brendon Le Page, Head of Lambeth Music Service and Director of the Lambeth In Harmony project, inspired by Venezuela's famous El Sistema project that gave birth to the Simón Bolívar Youth Orchestra. Hear more about how Lambeth are using government funding to bring positive change to the lives of very young children in one of the most deprived areas of England.

The location will be Waterloo's 1901 Arts Club at 7 Exton Street, London SE1 8UE, a little-known gem of a chamber music venue "inspired by Europe's Salon culture" with great facilities and easy transport links – nearest stations are Waterloo underground (Jubilee, Northern, Bakerloo lines) and Waterloo East.

We work on behalf of you, our member groups, and the broader voluntary music scene in London. As well as using our own experience of the voluntary and professional music worlds, we take input from the membership to steer the future direction of MM London.

So drop in on your way home after work, or come out for a nice evening. If you've already been to a Question Time event, the subject matter will most likely be entirely different so feel free to come again and contribute your ideas, ask questions or just listen.

Apologies if we've hit your rehearsal night this time, but there are only 5 days in the week and we do rotate the evenings on which we hold events to accommodate this.

There is no cost to attend although you must book in advance by e-mailing tom@makingmusic.org.uk or calling 020 7422 8294. We look forward to seeing you there.

Making Music at the Southbank Centre

What a pleasure – not to mention relief – for Tom and I to arrive at the Clore Ballroom space near Waterloo on a rainy Sunday afternoon in November, and at long last see one of the results of much hard work put in by many people in a relatively short stretch of time. **Ealing Youth Orchestra** were busy rehearsing excerpts of West Side Story with dancers from **Norwood School**, watched by a considerable number of people amidst the usual ‘social vibe’ and homely feeling of the large foyer area. A projection onto the screen behind the orchestra told observers the series of the day’s events.

Sadly we had missed the public dance workshops earlier on, which were also to contribute to the massed performance. Speaking to the orchestra’s organisers, we learned that this special occasion had proved a good opportunity for them to invite back a few former players who had moved on to university and music college with the new academic year. The combined youth groups enjoyed the experience and gave a very successful performance later in the day to an appreciative audience.

This was part of our collaboration with Southbank Centre on **The Bernstein Project**. We are delighted that 10 Making Music member groups (9 from London and 1 from the Midlands) have been programmed into the Southbank Centre schedule alongside the run of professional events. Their contributions are via foyer and workshop activities, educational events and evening concerts in the main halls, and have been designated part of the ‘Making Music Series’ in marketing materials.

We hope to continue this partnership into the future and discussions are already taking place regarding the 2011/12 season – there’s definitely no shortage of ideas. Below, meanwhile, is a list of all past and future events in our series so do go along and catch them if you can.

Sunday 18 October, 5pm - BT Melodians Steel Orchestra
Sunday 29 November, 3pm - Ealing Youth Orchestra
Sunday 10 January, 5pm - London Saxophone Choir
Thursday 18 March, 7:30pm - Corinthian Chamber Orchestra
Sunday 21 March, 4pm - Lambeth Wind Orchestra
Saturday 10 April, 2pm - Harmonie Concert Band and Lewisham Concert Band
Saturday 1 May, 7:45pm - Joyful Company of Singers
Monday 7 June, 7:30pm - Diversity Choir
Wednesday 7 or Thursday 8 July (TBC) - Streetwise Opera

Heather Tomala writes about Making Music’s collaboration with Southbank Centre on The Bernstein Project.

Two-for-one ticket offer

In case you’ve missed it on the MM London website, Southbank Centre is promoting a special two-for-one offer for Making Music members for the following events that are part of The Bernstein Project:

The Music of the Twentieth Century

Sunday 10 January 2010 at 11am, Purcell Room at Queen Elizabeth Hall
www.southbankcentre.co.uk/find/music/tickets/the-music-of-the-twentieth-century-49403

Broadway Prepared

Sunday 14 February 2010 at 11am, Purcell Room at Queen Elizabeth Hall
www.southbankcentre.co.uk/find/music/tickets/broadway-prepared-49411

Bernstein Mass

Saturday 10 & Sunday 11 July 2010 at 7:30pm, Royal Festival Hall
www.southbankcentre.co.uk/find/music/classical/tickets/bernstein-mass-46699

To take advantage of this opportunity, phone 0844 847 9910 and quote ‘2-for-1 ticket offer’.

Adopt-a-Composer

Now in its ninth year, Adopt-a-Composer is an annual opportunity for six Making Music groups to 'adopt' a young composer, who works with them over the course of a year to produce a tailor-made new work. The project is funded by the PRS Foundation and is run in partnership with Sound&Music.

Each adoption invariably brings different challenges to all involved, and many groups have found that the journey has given them a fresh perspective on new music. Some groups have found that the experience has helped them find a new direction or reach out to a different audience. For the composers, it has given many a great kick-start to their careers and an insight into the voluntary music sector. Some of the pieces have won awards, and many have been broadcast on Radio 3.

"We would certainly recommend it to other groups. It gave us a lot more confidence to work with composers. Winning 'Adopt-a-Composer' galvanised the group, and we decided to commission other works so that we could do a whole concert of new works written for us." (Midlands Fretted Orchestra)

This year, two London groups have been selected for inclusion in the project, taking part in a very ambitious collaboration. These are Finchley Chamber Choir and Finchley Chamber Orchestra. Taking on this challenge is composer George Holloway. You can follow their progress via our national website, including finding out when the new piece will be premiered.

You can also get hold of previous Adopt-a-Composer pieces, of which there is now a colourful array. And if your group is interested in taking part itself, please visit our website www.makingmusic.org.uk around May 2010.

The marvellous mandolin

You may remember reading in London Harmony a year ago that an enthusiastic man by the name of Ian Segui was looking to start up a large mandolin group... As he said at the time, "We are aiming to create the largest plucked string orchestra that London has not seen in decades!"

Ian's aim was to reverse the trend of the ageing, dwindling sizes and closures of mandolin orchestras all over London by uniting mandolin and guitar players in one mass orchestra, showing that music for mandolin orchestra is interesting and fun, and preserving the traditions but giving a modern twist. His group caters for mandolin, mandola, acoustic classical guitar, acoustic bass guitar and double bass players of all levels.

And the progress he made in such a short time is truly inspirational. The inaugural London Mandolin Festival took place in May 2009 and was a massive success, attracting players from all over London and further afield in the UK thanks to Ian's hard work and dedication to the cause.

Monthly rehearsals took place in Clerkenwell Church from early 2009, and the group gave an afternoon and an evening performance on the same day in mid-May in Farringdon's Big Wheel Studio just next door. A broad range of repertoire was performed, chosen from Baroque and folk arrangements, contemporary and pop, including a couple of pieces common to other similar groups.

In fact, players are already looking forward to LMF 2010, for which they had their first rehearsal last November. The theme is 'Rumba and Accordion' and music will be based on the rumba rhythm and working with an accordionist. Full-day rehearsals will be taking place at Holborn's Conway Hall, roughly once a month as before, and sheet music is available in advance.



"An overwhelmingly positive experience although very challenging. We would encourage any choir to do it." (Thames Voyces)

Evan Dawson, Head of Support and Development, Making Music, writes about the success of the Adopt-a-Composer projects.



Photo from Flickr taken by "squarepants2004j/auntyhuia"

Go to www.londonmandolinfestival.org.uk for comments and recordings from last year's event, details of how to join the 2010 Festival and, if you're extra keen, a list of mandolin and guitar groups meeting regularly all over London.

You can get in touch with Ian Segui on: londonmandolinfestival@googlemail.com – he'd love to hear from you, especially if you play the guitar!



A different perspective

We thought it would be an interesting departure for London Harmony to feature a regular polemic from London-based musicians, highlighting a current issue, gripe or enthusiasm in their musical life. To kick things off, we asked the talented young composer Bernard Hughes to write about one of his bug-bears. Bernard has a rapidly increasing profile, having recently been nominated for a British Composer Award, plus winning the international section of the 2009/10 Polyphonos competition. Bernard also reviews and writes 'The Earwig' blog for Sound&Music.

<http://www.bernardhughes.co.uk/>

<http://www.soundandmusic.org/resources/blog/user/earwig>

Is Music Marginalised in the Cultural Conversation?

I am not going to waste any space arguing that classical music is sidelined in the mainstream media. It is too obviously true, and no less true for being over-familiar. But I want to make a more specific complaint about the way music is talked about (or not talked about) in the 'cultural conversation' in the media.

I would argue that music alone of mainstream art forms has, as a result of some neglect, come to be seen as 'out of bounds' for non-musicians. Culturally literate people who will confidently assert an opinion on a new novel or art exhibition feel unable to say anything intelligent about music. But this nervousness sends the message that music is beyond the realm of the general audience.

I don't want to get sidetracked into an argument on musical education which leaves intelligent non-musicians apparently unequipped to talk about music. That is not the point. Well-educated and informed people I know would with no training in art appreciation feel able to express an opinion about a gallery exhibition but find music, for some reason, more forbidding.

The other side of this coin is the notable absence of musicians or music critics reviewing other art forms. This can be seen in the profile of guest reviewers on Radio 4's Saturday Review. In the current series the programme has reviewed 43 items, including 10 books, 8 plays, 7 films, 6 gallery exhibitions and 2 operas. Of the 27 guest critics, 16 were writers: five historians, five novelists and six 'others'. Of the 11 other 'sundries' just one was a musician: Pat Kane, formerly of 80's pop combo Hue and Cry.

Are there really so many more eloquent, perceptive novelists than musicians or music critics? Really?

Really?

Although some guests are clearly there for their specialism (comedian Danny Robins reported on comedians), for the most part the point is that reviewers are non-specialists. So I am not complaining about opera being discussed by novelists and journalists – but I would also like to hear musicians talking about novels and plays. Their absence reinforces the idea of music as esoteric, 'difficult', beyond the ordinary Radio 4 listener.

continued opposite...

Any comments, thoughts, responses to Bernard's article? Would you like to write the next polemic? If so, e-mail rdolondon@makingmusic.org.uk or call us on 020 7422 8294 and let us know what you'd like to raise in the next edition of London Harmony.

Is Music Marginalised in the Cultural Conversation? (cont.)

Are there people who could fill this role? Yes, lots. Perhaps they are ex-directory. Here are some ideas: how about music critic Ivan Hewitt, composer and presenter Howard Goodall, conductor Mark Elder, critic Edward Seckerson, Times critic Richard Morrison, or Tom Service of the Guardian?

I am not someone who despairs about the future of classical music. Concert audiences have increased in the last 15 years. Yes, classical audiences are older, but that is perhaps because classical music is a mature art for mature people. I'm OK with that.

But I am disturbed by the marginalisation of serious music as a part of the cultural mix; disturbed that non-music critics feel unable to offer an opinion about music; and disturbed by the implication that those who know about classical music don't know about anything else. These attitudes are insidious and damaging to the status of classical music within British cultural life.

Chantage celebrates 10th anniversary

Led by top class choral director James Davey, Chantage, one of the UK's leading amateur choirs and former BBC Choir of the Year, has just celebrated 10 years of singing and winning in the amateur choral world with a gala concert. Here we look at some of their past achievements and hopes for the future...

From small beginnings back in 1999, Chantage has gone on to great successes, including becoming BBC Radio 3's Choir of the Year in 2006, releasing a CD with EMI Gold, and culminating last year in a fantastic opportunity to record live at Abbey Road Studios with the Mercury Prize-winning band Elbow.

A young and dynamic team of musicians from London, Chantage has often dared to go beyond the boundaries of the familiar choral world. As well as conquering the core chamber choir works of the Romantic period and 20th Century, their eclectic programmes cover everything from Medieval chant and Renaissance polyphony to contemporary commissions and even beatboxing. They've also premiered commissions of new works, some of which have been dedicated to the choir by renowned British composers including Sir John Tavener, Ronald Corp, Richard Allain and the BBC Singers' new associate composer Gabriel Jackson.

Regularly broadcast on BBC Radio2 and Radio3, as well as being featured as the Complaints Choir for the BBC's flagship programme 'The ONE Show', Chantage are no strangers to TV and radio, and have been broadcast performing alongside some of the UK's most highly acclaimed professional groups.

James Davey, the choir's founder and conductor, is absolutely thrilled to be celebrating ten years of music making: 'I'm always astounded at how wonderfully this choir can sing, and it feels like such a triumph to have reached our tenth anniversary having achieved so much - and we're still getting better! It just goes to show what you can achieve if you are truly passionate about what you do...'



For further information
Please see
www.chantage.org or
contact Rachel Tonkin at
Rachel@chantage.org



Photo from Flickr taken by "Laura Mary".

A Breath of Life - MM London and the British Lung Foundation

After a recent illness in my family, I became acutely aware of the work of the British Lung Foundation. Although the BLF is nowhere near the size of other health charities such as Cancer Research UK or the British Heart Foundation, they work on behalf of the one in seven people in this country who will suffer from a lung related illness, from mild asthma through to lung cancer and other chronic diseases.

One of the more common conditions is chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, or COPD. This is a term used for a number of conditions including chronic bronchitis and emphysema. The NHS recognises around 950,000 people registered as suffering from COPD and estimate that there could be up to 450,000 more undiagnosed and living with the condition. That combined total is over 2% of the population of this country – an eye-opening statistic.

Working for these patients, and helping them to manage their symptoms, are teams of respiratory nurses based in hospitals and also in the community. There is also a support network around the UK known as Breathe Easy groups. These are independent charities, each supported by the BLF but operating self-sufficiently. As well as offering moral support to patients, the groups are visited by respiratory nurses who advise on exercises that can help to manage symptoms.

And this is where Making Music comes in. Much of the physical exercise that the nurses recommend and teach is similar (if not identical) to what happens when people sing. At least, if they're doing it properly! The main idea is to encourage people to identify their diaphragm and use it to support their lungs, as often people with lung conditions also suffer from the stress and panic that comes with feeling short of breath. As anyone who has been nervous in a performing situation knows, there begins the vicious circle – when feeling stressed we often start to breathe in a 'shallow' way, but this actually exacerbates the problem. By learning how to arrest this when under pressure and actually concentrate on the diaphragm, it is possible to get things under control again.

We're certainly not the first people to recognise the potential for singing exercises to assist people with breathing issues. The Royal Brompton Hospital in London has been running a Singing for Breathing programme for patients with a range of lung conditions. All of the evidence gathered has shown that their vocal workshops are not only a source of fun and relaxation for the patients, but have also made a serious difference to the quality of life of those who have taken part. This was the subject of a recent broadcast on Radio 4, where patients who have suffered from lung problems for many years reported dramatic improvements in their ability to cope with everyday tasks following a vocal session, when previously even mundane duties such as washing and ironing had been difficult to cope with.

The Breathe Easy groups meet across the UK, and are frequently to be found in similar venues to Making Music member groups: village halls, church halls and community centres. By instigating a scheme that offers support to the Breathe Easy groups, we also hope to support member groups via the publicity and profile we can generate in the community for our members. Breathe Easy groups typically number around 30-40 people, but then there are the associated support networks such as respiratory nurses, local hospitals, GP surgeries, Primary Care Trusts (PCTs), etc. The British Lung Foundation has its own extensive network of publicity, and through our partnership we can raise the profile of MM both as a national organisation and in local communities. This could help to build audiences and potentially recruit new members, as well as putting into the spotlight the many benefits of music-making as a lifestyle choice – not least at a strategic level with local authorities and PCTs.

A Breath of Life - Get Involved!

The British Lung Foundation recommended that MM London run pilot schemes in Spring 2010 in the following London boroughs: Barnet, Bromley, Kingston, Merton, Sutton and Croydon. The sessions will be led by an award-winning choral director and vocal specialist, in consultation with medical staff.

We would be delighted if any members in these areas could offer a few hours of their voice and enthusiasm to support the sessions. In return, your group would be most welcome to bring along any marketing material about forthcoming concerts, workshops, recruitment leaflets, etc. You need not be from a vocal group – it is less about singing, more about using the voice and music to help animate a group of people.

If you would like more information – including venues and times – please contact Tom and Heather by the usual means: rdolondon@makingmusic.org.uk / 020 7422 8294

The main British Lung Foundation website:
www.lunguk.org

More information about Breathe Easy groups:
www.lunguk.org/supporting-you/breathe-easy

At our fingertips

Several groups have been asking recently for advice about fees paid to professionals, venues, workshop leaders and funding sources. Although these queries often require tailored attention, we do have a growing stack of resources available to members only which can help set you on the right track.

We thought this would be a good opportunity to advertise the various listings, guides and publications already available from the MM London Development Officers:

Research into fees paid to professionals (also published in London Harmony issue September 2008, available for download from the website)

Recommended professional workshop leaders: vocal, including a cappella, and instrumental

Recommended design professionals: photographers, print designers, website designers

Recommended recording engineers and companies

Rehearsal and concert venues, divided into inner and outer London

Funding sources

Training & Development Guides, including several case studies of previously funded MM London projects

Of course, you are still very welcome to contact us with these or any other queries. Get in touch via the usual means: rdolondon@makingmusic.org.uk or 020 7422 8294.



Photo from Flickr taken by "Laura Mary".

Tom Hammond writes about a new initiative with The British Lung Foundation.



Photo from Flickr.com taken by
Lawrence Op

Join Big Plans for St. Matthew

On 27 March 2010, London's Festival Chorus will stage one of their biggest and most challenging concerts to date – performing Bach's St Matthew Passion. Like most amateur choirs, their funding comes almost entirely from members' subscriptions along with ticket and bar sales from concerts. To do such a big piece is a real financial and organisational challenge and can only be achieved once every few years.

So they are extending an invitation to singers of all abilities to join with them to make this the amateur choral singing event of the year. This is a rare chance to prepare the whole, unabridged work and perform it to a large audience with top class soloists and orchestra.

Your invitation to join the choir...

The choir is open to all, regardless of experience and ability - there are no auditions, simply turn up at a rehearsal. Each voice part also has mentors who offer support to new and less experienced members.

Weekly rehearsals (term-time only) started on Monday 30th November 2009 but there is no problem with you joining in later. The choir meets 8-9:30pm at Broomwood Methodist Hall, Kyrle Road, SW11 6BD. There are also 2 Saturday rehearsals, a rehearsal the night before the concert, and in the afternoon on the day of the concert.

The concert is part of the St Luke's Music Society season and will take place at 7pm on Saturday 27 March 2010 in St Luke's Church, Thurleigh Road, London SW12 8RQ.

For more information about taking part in this concert please contact Ann Pettifer on 020 8685 1373, and you can find out more about the Festival Chorus via their website at www.festivalchorus.co.uk.

Singing in Sierra Leone

The story in the last two issues about the visit of Richmond choir Cantanti Camerati to Sierra Leone can now be completed since the expedition took place in October. Activities were based in the capital, Freetown, which has now grown to a city of 1.5 million inhabitants. The infrastructure in the city has been unable to keep up with this growth.

Nineteen singers took part: they made very close relations with all sorts of local musicians and were very warmly received. They gave one concert on their own at the cathedral and another jointly with members of the local music academy at the British Council auditorium. It was noted that the academy choir had more men than women and there were some very strong voices among them. The two choirs had each prepared several pieces of the other's music which were then performed together and the conducting was shared between the two musical directors. The programme included several instrumental pieces by Cantanti members including one member who is currently serving as the deputy high commissioner in Freetown.

The German ambassador said after the concerts that this bit of culture would have to last them a long time!

A key part of the project was to help local musical groups and a total of over 100 donated musical instruments and large quantities of sheet music were taken. Visits were made to the police band, the armed forces band and to schools and the music academy itself. The condition of their instruments and of their music libraries was examined and assessments made of the needs of each. Many of their instruments seen were damaged or needed repairs although there had been much ingenuity in making them serviceable. The donated instruments and sheet music were then allocated and distributed to the various organisations. Some of the choir's instrumentalists gave tuition to local young people and there were two appearances on local television.

The final engagement was to join the cathedral choir in the Sunday morning service which lasted two and a half hours and included no less than fifteen hymns!

However, it was not all work: the High Commissioner put on a party for the choir to meet local dignitaries and diplomatic personnel and there was an afternoon at a glorious beach resort. An expedition was made to a chimpanzee sanctuary and members got a feeling for what it is like to travel on rough roads outside the city.



Photo courtesy of Martin Pearson

Phil Morris from Cantanti Camerati reports on their recent visit to Sierra Leone



Photo courtesy of Martin Pearson



Photo courtesy of Martin Pearson



Photo courtesy of Martin Pearson



Photo from Flickr taken by "lapideo"

LIST YOUR EVENTS WITH MAKING MUSIC LONDON

Please e-mail Phil Morris (phil.morris4@btinternet.com) or write to him at 9 Holmesdale Avenue, London SW14 7BQ, marking your e-mail or envelope 'MM Concert Diary'.

You must include all of the following information for your entry to be included. Any submissions that do not include the required information may not be posted on our website:

- * Event date
- * Event time (including estimated finishing time)
- * Venue
- * Name of group
- * Ticket prices, including concessions
- * Brief event description (max. 50 words)
- * Contact name (can be your Box Office)
- * Contact telephone number and/or e-mail (again these can be your Box Office if you have one)
- * Website (N.B. optional)

Deadlines are the end of each month, with inclusion within three weeks of submission wherever possible.

Please note that Making Music only promotes concerts in venues that are compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act - please contact your venue if you're not sure what this means.

www.makingmusiclondon.com/concert-diary.html

Are you up to date?

Would you like more members in your group? How about in your audience? Or even just on your mailing-list? Are you taking full advantage of the service we offer?

Making Music London lists all member groups online, so that potential new recruits searching for a group to join can quickly identify the ensembles in their area. The groups are conveniently searchable by London borough and/or type, i.e. instrumental, vocal or promoting.

We receive a steady flow of e-mails and phonecalls from people looking for groups to join, and we know that a lot of the 'traffic' passing through the website heads straight for this search facility, so it pays to ensure that the information listed about your group is as accurate and up to date as possible.

We rely on YOU to keep us up to speed with the information you would like us to display about your group. With 300 members in London, we'd be hard pushed to keep checking each website for changes of MD, rehearsal venue, etc! And our listing could be of particular advantage to you if you don't yet have your own website.

Many groups have not given us any updates for quite some time, and you may well find that the information held on your group is now rather out of date.

If your group changes its publicity officer or MM representative, do make sure that the new person knows we are relying on them to keep us informed. It's very quick and easy for us to update your details.

So, take a look at your group's listing by visiting: www.makingmusiclondon.com/find-music-group.php and should you wish to amend what you see in any way, please e-mail the changes to: rdolondon@makingmusic.org.uk as soon as you can.