

Grandpont Messiah

Sunday November 29th 2009.

Information for singers

We are planning to put on a performance of Handel's *Messiah*, given by members of the community of South Oxford and friends. All are welcome to join in. If you are an experienced choral singer and know the music well, you will need to attend rehearsals on the Saturday and Sunday afternoons. If you need to learn the music, then there will be five more rehearsals on Thursday evenings. We will also have some CDs available to help you learn your part.



The performance

The performance will be in St. Matthew's church, Marlborough Road, at 6.30 pm on November 29th. The Messiah performance is taking the place of the normal evening service that day. We will be accompanied by a small orchestra. There will be no charge for admission, but there will be a retiring collection.

Rehearsals

The two rehearsals that everyone must attend are on Saturday 28th November from 2.00 pm until 5.00 pm, and on Sunday 29th (the afternoon of the performance) from 3.00 until 5.00. The orchestra and soloists will be with us for the Sunday rehearsal. If you are coming just to these two rehearsals, please make sure you know the notes beforehand.

We will also rehearse on Thursday evenings from 8.00 till 9.45, starting on October 29th, and continuing on each of the four Thursdays in November. We will almost certainly cut a few of the choruses. I will decide which when we have started rehearsals and can see how they are going.

Scores

We will be using the New Novello edition, edited by Watkins Shaw. You will need to provide your own copy. They cost £8.95 in paperback.

Practice CDs

We will be getting some practice recordings produced by Note Perfect (www.note-perfect.com). On these you hear a version of the orchestral accompaniment, along with just your own vocal line. If you would find this helpful for practising at home, we are allowed to make as many copies we need.

How do I sign up?

If you would like to take part in the performance, please contact Anne Winter (winter@4poplar.com, or 01865 245328), with your name and voice part. If you have any other queries, please contact Peter Foster (petertfoster@googlemail.com or 01865 861546). We would like as big a choir as possible, so please bring along all your singing friends – all are welcome!