

Minehead Choral Society  
Musical Director Report January 2020

I was very pleased with our performance of the Jenkins “Stella Natalis”, a very challenging work and we saved our best until the night. I very much appreciate how hard it was for everyone but we really pulled it off. The orchestra of course were a massive support, the percussion particular keeping everyone together. It was a pleasure to be joined by Stephanie Berner as a new soprano soloist and her powerful young voice fitted the work extremely well.

Our rehearsal schedule worked – much better than the last time we performed this work. The carols too were much more comfortable and gave us a great second half and a fun end to the evening.

There has been much discussion on the future direction of the society, we cannot be complacent and I feel we have always been willing to adapt and this has kept us fresh. We need to be mindful of our audience and our membership and we won't be able to please everybody. Alternating programmes of traditional choral works and newer / unfamiliar seems to help, if people don't like one term's programme they know that the next is likely to be more to their taste. This has also helped to broaden our members experience and introduce them to different works and styles.

This term is as deliberate re-visit to one of our most popular concerts, the musicals. Initially thought of as a light relief, when we last did this our members were surprised at the work needed to perform these numbers well, and we ended up editing the parts that couldn't be perfected in time. I am very keen to try to build up the bass and tenor sections – the future of the society as a four part group relies on strength and numbers in all the parts. It may be that we need to look at different repertoire to include 3 part – with tenors and basses combining.

A light programme this year would I hope rebuild and attract and enable us to tackle some of the great works next year.

As always I am indebted to the committee to their hard work and to Sue for her unfailing support

Marcus Capel  
7.1.20