

New College Chorale

1995 – 2020

In 1995 Bob had an idea,
To form a new group, a 'Community Choir'.
'New College Chorale' held auditions through summer,
To find the best singers to come together.
At the start of September rehearsals began,
With Pam on Piano and Bob with baton.
And so, commenced the start of an era,
each Monday night in the Hayward Arts Theatre.

The Choir continued from strength to strength,
New people joined and others left.
We sang with Orchestras...Cantatas and Hymns,
Magnificat's, Masses and Requiems.
Penny was always on hand to assist,
She'd keep us in check and arrange where we'd sit!
Our concerts took place throughout the years,
At Christmas, or Easter, all loved to hear.

Then in 2015 Bob officially 'retired,'
Which became the 'Adagio' time of his life.
New College Chorale was still top of his list,
Though no more big concerts with famous soloists!
In 2016 we moved to Christ Church,
A different view, and newly refurbished.
Bob said he could no longer carry on,
So new faces arrived to smooth the transition.

The next chapter began with a different leader,
As Andy became our Musical Director.
With John at his side to do his bit,
The new combination became a big hit.
Then along came Evie to play the piano,
For Pam now had other places to go to.
And still over proceedings Bob kept watchful eye,
Until finally conducting the “great gig in the sky”.

And now here we are in the year 2020,
Where we’re 25 years into our maturity.
Covid-19 means we can’t gather publicly,
So, meeting via Zoom is our new normality.
Nobody knows when we’ll meet up in person,
But there is one thing of which I’m certain.
That Bob still is keeping watch over our destiny,
For in New College Chorale, he has left his legacy.

Karen Beresford

August 2020