

Baroque and Roll Comes to Fareham

Love to sing? Aged 10-16? As of this autumn, the well-known Fareham Philharmonic Society is looking for singers to form an exciting new choir exclusively for young people. With plans for independent concerts, competitions, and workshops run by none other than the international hit band *Aqualung*, the choir – which will be named by its first members – is already looking like a fantastic opportunity for young singers in Fareham.

“Many of the current members of the FPS,” says Susan Burt, project director, “have wonderful memories of choral singing when they were young, and want to ensure that modern young people in Fareham are offered a similar experience – now, and in the future.”

“If you are into music of whatever kind, join a choir. You’ll be glad you did!” says Matt Hales (*aka Aqualung*) “One of my most significant early musical experiences was joining the local choir when I was about 7. I sang there every week for about 7 years and I was learning all the time – about harmony, about arrangements, about melody and space and the power of dynamics and the amazing range of different types of music in the world. But even more than that, I learned the wonderful, unique buzz of standing with your friends inside this brilliant, beautiful sound that you are all making together.”

The choir’s debut is planned for November, with David Fanshawe’s lovely piece, “Dona nobis pacem” – a rare chance for young singers to perform in a full choral piece for an audience. As well as participating in concerts with the Fareham Phil, the choir will be encouraged to put on their own performances with programmes of their own choosing. Not only that, but *Aqualung*’s Matt and Ben will be working with them in musical workshops and competitions, giving them the opportunity not just to perform songs, but even to compose and arrange their own!

Most exciting of all is the gala concert planned for 2009, where the choir will be given the chance to show off their achievements and set the mood for future performances.

Membership is free, and there is no audition. If you live in or near the Borough of Fareham, are aged between 10 and 16 and would like to be a founder member of this exciting new project, phone Sheila on 01329 846233 or email fychoir@btinternet.com to let them know as soon as possible. They hope they’ll see – and hear – you there!

Matt Hales aka Aqualung

