

**DERBYSHIRE SINGERS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**Tuesday 8th February 2022**

**Musical Director's / Principal Conductor's Report for 2020-21**

A year to remember for all the wrong reasons!

Whilst no rehearsals or concerts took place there were other opportunities:

1. Many choir members signed up for the on-line Musicianship classes which were based on Zoltan Kodály's pedagogical approach to training the musical inner hearing. The 10 weekly sessions covered basic relative solfa (which is not the same as Curwen's tonic solfa), explored the structure of the major, minor and modal scales and developed multi-part hearing through added actions – the latter giving us a much-needed laugh!
2. Chris has done sterling work throughout the pandemic in helping us all to maintain contact with each other. Her willingness to be the 'technological conduit' for members' recommendations of favourite pieces enabled us all to keep in touch. This eventually developed into members' 'Desert Island' choices and, in all, covered a huge range of musical styles and genres. Surely, we all discovered something new! Many thanks to Chris and all who contributed.

On behalf of all members, we would like to thank the Trustees for time spent (hours!) on following official Covid guidance for singing. This has involved attending online seminars run by Making Music, ABCD (Association of British Choral Directors) and the ISM (Incorporated Society of Musicians). We are indebted to some choir members who have willingly shared advice on safety measures, compilation of risk assessments and so on.

At the end of the 2020-21 season, some members decided it was time to 'call it a day'. The combined 'lengths of service' total over 300 years! We are truly indebted to all these choral stalwarts who have been so dedicated in singing so many thousands of crotchets and quavers. Our accompanist, Stephen Allen, also finished due to other demands on his time. We thank all these people wholeheartedly and look forward to seeing them in our audiences – whenever that may be.

Lynne and Joe  
02 January 2022