



Amabilis Singers: Annual Report for 2021

This has been a year unlike any other. In 2020 we were able to start the year with a wonderfully successful and satisfying concert at the end of February. However, as a choir who loves to sing, we have been bereft this year having been unable to sing together at all in person. In spite of all this, the Amabilis spirit remains strong.

We have kept in touch with regular Zoom sessions. Ramona, our amazing artistic director created fun sessions of Musical Bingo, musical quizzes and crossword puzzles. She also continued with some excellent seminars which ranged from such topics as The Birth of Choral Music, Demands on the Singer, Christmas Carols and a wide-ranging exploration of George Crumb, a composer new to many of us. Two of our basses presented a wine seminar. We even had a choir book club. Our first book was *The Music Shop* by Rachel Joyce.

In August the choir met up in person for the first time for over a year for a picnic in Queens Park. At that time, we tried out the special choir masks that the Amabilis Board had bought for us.

Since September we began rehearsals in person in a limited way. All choir members are fully vaccinated. Because of our numbers we had to divide the choir in half with 30 members rehearsing one week and the other 30 rehearsing the following week. We kept to social distance rules and had to adjust to wearing a mask for singing (not the ideal situation but preferable to not singing at all).

As the Amabilis Board has granted Ramona a leave of absence for this term Carrie Taylor, a talented choral director and teacher, has been taking rehearsals since September.

Breaking news: Today we have just heard that as from next week (November 3rd) rehearsals can take place with the whole choir present. Things are definitely looking up!

Joyce Jackson (for Amabilis Singers)