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Dear Ulverston Festival Chorus Member/Potential Member!

I hope you've had a good summer – despite the weather! Now everything is “back to normal”, I've had a chance to ascertain the dates for your diaries for next year's Choral Concert within the Festival.

The work we shall be performing on **Saturday 30th June at 7.30pm** is **Brahms: “Ein Deutsches Requiem”** (in German – there will be help with pronunciation so please don't be concerned if you're used to singing it in English). As the piece has a lot of notes, we are aiming at **three full-day workshops** this time round with a **dress rehearsal on the day from 2.30-5.30pm**.

Due to the Festival being late in June (on account of Anthony Hewitt's Olympianist bike ride), dates for rehearsal - and indeed, the concert date itself - have been very hard to sort. I know that there will be a proportion of you for whom at least one of our rehearsals is a clash. However, John is happy that as long as **two out of the three workshop rehearsals** are attended, a third is permissible to be missable!

The rehearsals will all take place, as usual, in the concert venue – **Ulverston Parish Church, Church Walk, Ulverston**. The dates of these are:

Saturdays 31st March, 5th May and 16th June 2012 from 10am – 4pm.

The performance will be with a two-piano accompaniment (one pianist being Anthony Hewitt alongside another equally world-class virtuoso). This arrangement is by no means a poor relation to the orchestral version and indeed it will be interesting to hear the different sound world created by two pianos. It is of course more practical for us for both budget and space.

Speaking of budget, this year for the first time, we are having to ask singers to contribute **£5 each** which will go towards music hire and refreshments (there will therefore be no added requests for donations towards costs). I hope you will all feel that this is reasonable!

I will of course be in touch with further news along the way. I'm hoping to avoid having to ask representatives within choirs to brief you as it's a lot to ask of them as I'm sure you understand, so **please contact me direct. For now, I'd be grateful to hear back from each of you individually by either phone or email to me (see top of letter) if you'd like to sing. Please state your voice part, your email address, or if you don't have one, then your phone number or the email address of someone who can pass messages to you from me.** I would like to have an idea of numbers by the **end of October** as I will need to arrange the hire of vocal scores in time for our first workshop. However, it's always nice to hear from you, so if you are pretty sure you'll be singing, it would be great to hear from you in the next couple of weeks! Similarly, if there are others who'd like to join in that only hear about this after the end of October, please encourage them to still get in touch as I'm sure we'll be able to accommodate them.

I look forward to hearing from you all – **any questions, please ask me!**
With my - and John's - very best wishes as always,

Rowena Gibbons
Choral Concert Co-ordinator

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