

Mr. Benjamin Britten,
The Red House,
Aldeburgh,
SUFFOLK.

September 9, 1968.

Dear Mr. Britten,

We have now come to the end of our second full 'season' as a choir, this second year being particularly notable in that you kindly agreed during this time to become patron.

Since last September, we have performed nine concerts of different types. Most notable of these were performances of the Bach 'Magnificat' in Oxford and Walthamstow Town Halls, with top soloists, and a charity performance of Stainer's 'Crucifixion', with John Boulter of the Black and White Minstrels as tenor soloist.

The concert, however, from which we derived most satisfaction was on St. Valentine's day, when at Leighton House, we presented a programme of words and music on the theme of Love - our 'orgy' as it came to be known. Love conquered all that night, (except perhaps two staidier members of our audience who took exception to a quotation concerning the amoral philosophy of a certain James Saunders character) - the audience seeming to have well captured the spirit behind the performance.

For the coming year, we have to prepare for a possible four concerts before Christmas, and then for a performance of the Faure Requiem with the Forest Philharmonic Orchestra at Walthamstow in May. We are also enquiring into the possibility of doing a recital in connection with the Camden Festival, which very successfully promotes modern music performances.

However, our principal aim for the next year is a projected concert tour of the United States in August of next year, with as large a repertoire of British music as possible. The idea is in an embryo stage at present, as we are looking for contacts, both with regard to the staging of concerts in the most advantageous places, and also to finding possible areas of sponsorship. Sadly, there does not appear to be a large American company using the name

2/.....

- 2 -

Concord. It is our hope that you might be able to suggest something in these respects, particularly with the setting up of concerts. If, in fact, you are so able we would be most grateful to hear from you.

We are hoping to receive within the next month, a tape of part of our performance at the Montraux International Choral Festival in 1967 and when this arrives, we will send you a copy so that you can hear how we sound. Meanwhile, we should thank you for entrusting your name to us.

Yours sincerely,

M..E. COTTLE