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Dear *Elijah* singer!

On behalf of the organisers and the beneficiaries, I wanted to thank you for your splendid contribution to this highly successful fundraising event. From your numerous letters and e-mails, I have gathered that the day was an enjoyable experience and that, in itself, is a great result. However, I am also pleased to tell you that we raised in excess of **£5,500** for three Romsey charities: the Wessex Cancer Trust Jane Scarth House, the XLP Trust and the Molemax Appeal, and this would not have been possible without your help and support. Well done everyone!

The Molemax Appeal has not previously been mentioned, as it came to our attention only recently. It relates to a computer which can map cancerous moles (melanomas) on the human body. A young male friend is suffering from this problem and, with the help of family and friends, has raised so far £8,000 of the £12,000 cost of the machine. The Wessex Cancer Trust has recognised this urgent need and has already provided a Molemax machine for Southampton General Hospital. Our contribution will go towards the family's commitment to raise the total amount. A further tragic connection with our endeavour is that his wife, who helped to provide the catering for *Elijah*, is herself in the terminal stages of cancer. I hope that you will agree, therefore, that it is entirely appropriate to apportion some of the funds raised to underwriting the purchase of this vital piece of diagnostic equipment.

You will be delighted to hear that Kath, John, Cheryl and I all felt that *Elijah* was magnificent. We had thought that the Mozart *Requiem* in 2000 was wonderful (as we would, because it was our first 'Come and Sing') and the Brahms *Requiem* in 2003 was another superbly enjoyable afternoon and evening. However, *Elijah* was a far bigger challenge – organisationally and singing-wise - and, therefore, was a totally different experience for us all. A most notable difference was the excitement that it generated on the day. From first thing in the morning while we were setting up, through the afternoon and into the evening there was an almost tangible buzz of anticipation in the Abbey and the Church Rooms. I hope that you experienced and enjoyed that atmosphere as much as we did. It certainly lingered for days afterwards as well!

As with so many large-scale events, the lead time stretches over months (or years, as in this case) and then it is all over 'in a flash', so to speak. However, enthused by your responses over the last couple of weeks and, particularly, by your compliments about the organisation of the day, we have started to think ahead. After the previous two events, we didn't talk immediately about "the next" but this time we are beginning to think that the **Verdi *Requiem*** is a possibility for 2010 so watch this space!!

Again - many, many thanks for your support and we will be in contact with future plans.

With every best wish

Clive Collier

On behalf of Cheryl Collier, Kath and John Tilling