

Dear Choristers, Paul and James!

Today is my fifth Anniversary of being a GCS member! I know many of you are singing much-much longer in the Chorus, as Karen Juul would remind us every year in September, but this is an important milestone for me.

Why would I share with you this information?

Because this is a very supportive community, that gives me the joy of singing together and the love of music in general.

I am sure you will all understand my excitement and nervousness when I applied for the first audition, since my English was so poor. I will never forget how Barry Nova (who was the Register that year) helped me with unbelievable patience and attention.

When the time of the audition came, Paul asked for the next applicant, who was me. As I handed over my Mozart and Haydn music sheets then asked in trembling voice if he want me to sing in German or Hungarian.

What do you think he answered? Yes, just as you would guess; he said "Sing it in Hungarian." I thank him for this audition, and for accepting me to GCS. (Not necessary as an appreciation of me singing in Hungarian.) During the first rehearsal's break, Paul introduced me as a new Hungarian chorister, then a distinguished white-haired tenor, Dan Bergfeld, came to me with his touching recollections and experiences with Hungarian refugees in 1956.

This is the first group in my new country, where I am not just finding a community of like-minded music lovers, but people who are willing to help in any possible ways. When I started my first rehearsal Barry and Ginny White (section leader of Soprano 1) offered all help and assistance I needed. Ginny took me to her side, offered support to overcome my language problems, and gave me all the necessary information. Same way helped me members of the Soprano group in every conceivable way, likewise all the other choristers, disregarding my accent and language difficulties.

I know all new members can experience the same warm and supporting reception that I got. I could list many more names if I wanted to recognize and thank all those who offered help, but let me just single out one; Paul, who is not only an excellent conductor and music teacher, but in his smiling, always happy ways he also teaches me not only music, but English too.

So, thank you all for all the friendship and support, and wish you all a Happy New Year, hoping for many more years of wonderful singing together.

Eniko Kovacs Szatai