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ALBUM? - NOV.

[Dear Mr. Britten,]

The Committee of the Concord Singers are pleased to extend to you the invitation to become one of their patrons. We would be very grateful for your consideration of this invitation in the light of the following history of the choir.

We are a group of amateur singers, formed two years ago, and are based at an evening institute in London. Essentially, the choir consists of twenty-four singers, although we have fifty on the books, since some of our performances do require a larger force.

The name "Concord" was taken from the second of the Choral Dances from your opera Gloriana, and this particular piece we are always happy to perform as our "signature tune". After a number of small concerts in and around London, we ventured down to Wales to compete in the Pantyfedwen Eisteddfod in May last year. Singing the Gloriana Dances, we won our class with one of the highest marks awarded to any choir in the Eisteddfod.

This year, we entered the International Choral Festival in Montreux, Switzerland, in competition with eighteen choirs from seven countries. With our programme of music by Purcell, Kodaly, Seiber, Barber, Passereau and Weelkes, we came second, by one mark to the Budapest University Choir. We were awarded the Public Prize by an audience vote, mainly, we feel, for the tremendous impact made by the Gloriana Dances again. In fact, the audience stopped the performance at the end of Concord with their applause.

During the coming winter we have been engaged to sing two performances of the Bach "Magnificat". One is with the Morley College Orchestra in Oxford Town Hall and the other with the Forest

Philharmonic Orchestra in the Walthamstow Assembly Hall, behind Josephine Veasey, Marjorie Thomas, Ronald Dowd and Ben Luxom. Plans are also in hand for a performance of Stainer's "Crucifixion" with John Boulter as one of the soloists, and we are preparing an Anthology of Love in words and music for performance on St.Valentine's Day.

It is appreciated that requests for patronage from societies such as ours must reach you frequently, but we feel sure we can convince you of our merit. Our next concert is on Sunday, 26th November, at Ashwell, Hertfordshire, home of the Ashwell Festival. We are singing a programme of works by Britten and Purcell in the parish church, commencing at 6.30 p.m., and we would be delighted if you could find time to come and hear us.

We will be very pleased to hear your comments on our request and whether or not you will be able to come to Ashwell to hear us sing.

[Yours sincerely,]