

LARRY MALCOLM
TENOR.

31 Aberdeen Road
London N5 2 UG

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Dear Malcolm,

I am sorry I have not been in touch before now, and have been absent at the last two rehearsals. I think you knew about the Saltarello rehearsal last week, anyway. I have also been much involved with concerts (expected and unexpected - sudden deputising for Doc Steinitz, for instance).

I apologise for walking out of your rehearsal in that untoward fashion the other week: the reasons were many and complex, but when all's said and done, they don't excuse it. Please accept my apology.

I already explained my difficulties over the Teesside expedition, and I shall not now be able to come. I certainly hope it goes well - maybe even some financial benefit may accrue! I also find that forthcoming Wednesdays and weekends are very cluttered: at the last rehearsal, Celia seemed not to expect me at Walkern, so presumably the date is not too pressing. I hardly think I could make the rehearsals anyway.

I am afraid I have been increasingly absent from Concord of late; this has been due to pressure of other singing activities, and not wanting to let anyone down. However, I am increasingly aware, these days, that long periods of arduous rehearsal bear little fruit. Perhaps because of my growing exposure to professional attitudes, I find that a concentrated effort is far more exciting (and leaves more time for other things - or perhaps just for other rehearsals!) For instance, I got a lot out of that month of hard work we did for last January's concert, and should love it if we did that all the time; but at other times the schedules have seemed very protracted.

Of course you know me too well not to have noticed this happening; the fact is, I don't seem to be getting quite the old degree of enjoyment out of it all, so probably the time has come to quit. So I shan't be re-auditioning in September - though of course you may see me in the pub on many a Wednesday, since I have no intention of losing touch with all my old friends in Concord.

You must also, please, put me on the mailing list,

and I shall try to rally support for future concerts.

And lastly, if you are ever in need of a tenor soloist (very reasonable rates!) or, indeed, some voices to swell the ranks on a big occasion, I hope I shall be one of the first names you'll think of. As always in the past, it will be a great pleasure to sing for you. And thanks for so much regular encouragement over the years.

I hope to see you soon. Perhaps you and Tricia would come over for a meal sometime (when we have cleared a bit of a backlog in that direction).

Yours Ever,

Larry

(P.S. I'll drop my music round at Keith's.)