

TPC and Symphonic Choir of Konstanz (SCK), October 2024 Update

Background -

Richmond has been twinned with Fontainebleau in France since 1977 and Konstanz in Germany since 1983.

The Richmond in Europe Association <https://richmondineurope.com/> works closely with Richmond, Fontainebleau & Konstanz Councils to promote sporting, cultural and educational links and exchanges between the 3 towns & their surrounding areas.

TPC and the Symphonic Choir of Konstanz (SCK) have a long-standing relationship, with regular exchanges between the two choirs. Our most recent visit to Konstanz was in May 2023.

Reaffirmation weekend – June 2025

The 65th anniversary of the first twinning between Fontainebleau & Konstanz will be celebrated in Richmond from 6th – 8th June 2025, and this is referred to below as the “reaffirmation weekend”

- Saturday 7 June: There will be a music stage in Richmond Town Centre for youth groups to play
- Sunday 8 June: There will be a parade of community groups, marching bands, etc. from Marble Hill House and along the river up to York House. They will start to gather at around 11am.
This will be followed by the signing of the reaffirmation certificate by the three mayors at around 1 pm followed by a large picnic for everyone from the parade and the public in the sunken garden at York House accompanied by music on the terrace, until around 5 pm.
- Associated events: Groups can hold their own events/activities alongside the main programme or during the weeks before or after the reaffirmation weekend. The activities will be put on a map to be distributed to the public via the libraries, hotels, Richmond kiosk, council offices and other places.

How does this affect TPC?

If TPC would like to participate in the parade as a group, we will need to confirm approximate numbers to the Richmond organisers by 30 November. Choir members might alternatively choose to attend as individuals.

There is also the option of performing outdoors at the picnic, and again we would need to express our interest in doing this by 30 November. The committee’s and Harry’s thoughts are that singing outside is not ideal for our type of singing and that it is very close to our summer concert.

We will, however, submit the details of the TPC Summer concert so that it’s listed as an associated event and on the map of events. This would hopefully boost ticket sales.

We feel that the weekend is too close to our Summer concert for TPC to invite the SCK for an official visit. They have also told us of their very busy programme of concerts. However, if individuals members of SCK wish to visit, we would like to offer accommodation for individuals.

For any queries, contact Julie Kendrick (julie_kendrick@hotmail.com)