

Who is Angela Sorrell?



And so begins one of the great mysteries of our time...

Last December, Angela Sorrell very kindly wrote to the Editor of Leading Notes (the Choir's termly newsletter) regarding the potentially vexatious matter of concert dress. But then, as the dark evenings drew ever-closer, and the wind's cold howl caused unexplained rattles (*enough about the bass section's joints*), the whispers started – “*there's no-one in the choir called Angela Sorrell.*”

A letter to eds. (or Wonders Never Cease)

Dear Editor,

A week or two before each concert our chairman tells us what concert dress is needed. It may be my imagination, but this information always seems to be delivered hurriedly and without the usual informality of the notices. Is this because many members would prefer alternative dress but that discussion on the matter would leave an evening's rehearsal schedule in tatters?

A 'uniform' of some sort is a good idea as the audience is able to concentrate on the performance rather than a fashion parade. But why black and white? Is it because the men wear djs and white shirts, so the ladies mirror this tradition?

How often have we shivered in St Mary's Church in our thin blouses? It is difficult to conceal a warm layer beneath a white blouse. The stark contrast of black on white can be rather unflattering around the midriff, and there is always the dilemma - blouse tucked in or out?. What is white anyhow? We know it is not cream (that's not allowed) but after a few washes most whites turn a pale shade of grey.

You may gather that I for one would welcome some thought on the matter and the pages of LN seem the ideal forum for some debate on the subject

Yours, Angela Sorrell

Angela! Thank you! Splendid! All replies should be passed surreptitiously to eds., preferably with sketches of suitable garments/undergarments addressing the problems discussed above and, (with recommendations for more efficient brands of washing powder) enclosed in a sealed plain envelope. Opinions are sought from S's and A's, T's and B's possibly having no opinion on the matter.

Leading Notes, December 2005

All eyes turned to Brian ‘The Enforcer’ Jones, subs secretary, for reassurance. But he had no words to comfort us, for a quick rummage in The Briefcase of Power confirmed what we had all suspected – the name Angela Sorrell is a pseudonym... (or, for the sopranos, a made-up name).

A cursory inspection of the name – care of the anagram generator at www.easypeasy.com – reveals no obvious clue as to her (or his?) identity. However, these sage words on pedagogy - LEARN REAL SLOG – can be extracted, and provide an insight into the minds of the tenors when faced by an unfamiliar piece of music.¹

And so, dear reader, this mystery remains unsolved – for now... Any clues as to Ms. Sorrell's identity can be left via an electronic recording device cunningly disguised as a rock.

¹ Incidentally, ‘the alto section’ yields such anagrammatic gems as ‘ELASTIC HOOT NET’, ‘COHESION TATTLE’ and ‘SALIENT ECHO TOT’.