



CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

Time seems to have flown by this season! It only seems a short time ago that we were getting to grips with Jonathan Dove's *For an Unknown Soldier* and Duruflé's *Requiem* – and here we are about to perform Haydn's *The Creation*.

These three pieces, all very different, show what a capable and accomplished Society we are. I know that for many our performance of the Duruflé was not our finest hour, but our professionalism on the platform ensured that we gave a good performance. After every concert I am always praised on our performance, and the standard we achieve. Our own personal misgivings are rarely conveyed to the audience, other than to the most experienced ear. After all we perform to a live audience, rather than receiving the scrutiny of recording.

Following our challenging autumn programme, we are on much safer ground with the Haydn. I have really enjoyed having the chance to go into fine detail of how to sing, as well as learning what will really make a truly polished and very professional performance. I know many members of the society have performed the work a number of times, but I am sure there are details which have been overlooked before. Indeed, our final rehearsal with Richard being usefully pedantic proved that however well you think you know a work, there is always learning and polishing to do!

Last week we had our 'Pub Quiz' which raised a total of £976.02 – a fantastic total. Huge thanks to all involved, particularly Sue White with her amazing cooking and Mark Elliston for liaising with Simon, our quiz master, as well as organising the bar. Many members who were unable to make the rescheduled date left their ticket money as a donation, thank you!

We all know that the Society has received very sizable legacies this year. This money ensures our continued survival in a very competitive market, and enables us to hopefully help others enjoy what we love, namely music making! Fund-raising does still need to continue. The pub quiz is a great social event, which at the same time raises money. Our Calendars and Christmas cards were a great success, not only making money but also helping us market ourselves to a different audience. The Come & Sing workshop is also a great social event and opens our doors to others to have a great day, and of course raise a bit of extra money. So thank you to everyone who helps with all our events, committee members and society members alike.

This year has also had its share of sad news. Ian Patterson back in August last year, Helen Rowley, and most recently Mike Wilson who died suddenly on 13 February. I do hope that you will all find a moment to think of them and their families when we are in the Cathedral this Saturday.

Finally, I would like to single out and thank one person. This is Chris Allsop, his friendship and support of the society has been wonderful over the last 14 years. His humour, quick wit and excellent musicianship will be greatly missed.

On a last note... singing together as members of Worcester Festival Choral Society is unique. No two choruses are the same, and I like to think we are really rather special, so thank you everyone!

Ben Cooper (B)

SATURDAYS AT 7.30PM

**2018-19
SEASON**

WORCESTER CATHEDRAL

17 NOVEMBER 2018
POULENC: GLORIA
VAUGHAN WILLIAMS: HODIE

8 DECEMBER 2018
HANDEL: MESSIAH

23 MARCH 2019
MENDELSSOHN: ELIJAH

6 APRIL 2019
COME & SING WORKSHOP
BEETHOVEN: MASS in C

TICKETS £10 - £25 from
WORCESTER LIVE BOX OFFICE
01905 611427 or
worcesterfestivalchoralsociety.org.uk

REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 506826

CHRIS ALLSOP



In an email to members on 4 March our Chairman marked the imminent departure of Chris Allsop on his appointment to the King's School in the following terms.

"I am sure that many of you have already heard, but for those you who haven't, Chris Allsop will be leaving us after our next concert. Chris has been appointed to the new post of Assistant Director of Music at The King's School Worcester. I am sure you will all join me in congratulating Chris and thanking him for all that he has done for the society over the last 14 years.

Chris has certainly not just been an accompanist! He is not only an incredibly talented keyboardist, but also an excellent all-round musician. We have been privileged to have sung under Chris' baton, first when Adrian Lucas was on sabbatical, and more recently stepping into the

breach when Peter broke his shoulder. Chris also took a superb 'Come and Sing' for the society last season, proving his depth of choral knowledge as well as intimate knowledge of 'The Dream of Gerontius'.

Away from WFCS, anyone who was present, like myself, when Chris played the organ for the Glagolitic Mass during last year's Three Choirs Festival will understand what an immense talent he has.

Personally, Chris has become a friend to me, and given me great support during my period as Chairman. His sense of humour and quick wit has helped us through many a cold Monday night in the Cathedral! Fortunately, Chris is only moving 'next door', so I am sure our paths will continue to cross in the future."

We all surely echo Ben's sentiments, and thank Chris for his superlative contribution to WFCS music in recent years!



THE CHORAL SCHOLARS

During Season 2017-18 we have enjoyed the company, and support, of the Cathedral Choir Choral Scholars. They join us at rehearsals and at our concerts. They are:

David Pettersson: Alto Choral Scholar: Originally from Uppsala, Sweden, David came to the attention of the Cathedral Choir during their tour of Sweden in May 2016. David Studied at Uppsala Cathedral School, Uppsala University and Lund University and Is a Member of the Swedish Vocal Group Simplyfive.

Sebastien Hill: Tenor Choral Scholar: Seb completed his A-Levels at Trinity School, Croydon, and has joined the Cathedral Choir on a Gap Year. He is also working as a music assistant at the King's School.

Matthew Welch: Bass Choral Scholar: Also on a Gap Year, Matthew has joined the Cathedral Choir from Dean Close School, Cheltenham, having previously been a Chorister at Llandaff Cathedral.

We thank them, and wish them well in their future careers!

THE PATRICIA THOMPSON LEGACY

At rehearsal on Monday 22 January our Chairman Ben Cooper (B) and our Treasurer David Norledge (T) imparted the good news of the gracious and welcome Legacy which former WFCS member Patricia Thompson has bequeathed to WFCS.

They invited suggestions as to how WFCS may best put this Legacy to use, perhaps in two tranches: one for charitable public benefit in association with WFCS's core choral singing objects and its duty of public benefit in charity law, and one by way of direct use by WFCS in accordance with those objects.

The Committee has asked Toby Hooper to receive, collate and report to the Committee on the responses received.

The present intention is that Toby will report to the Committee after Easter, then during the summer the Committee will make its decisions and report to members in the next issue of the Choral Chronicle.

This will be the August issue, in anticipation of new Season 2018-19. Toby has already received several worthy suggestions.

If anyone else would like to make a suggestion, please email Toby on hooper.toby@btopenworld.com by early in the week after Easter.



HELEN ROWLEY R.I.P

We record with sadness the death of Helen Rowley on 12 September last year. Helen sang Alto in WFCS until 2013, and continued to attend WFCS concerts after that.

Helen was married to Ken for over 60 years. Ken died earlier in 2017. They had two sons, one living in Australia, where Helen had recently visited, and one, Alistair, living in Worcester, and grandchildren. Following the mention of Helen in the WFCS Messiah programme in December her son Alistair wrote: "I do really appreciate the mention of Mum in the Messiah programme. I know Mum made great friendships through the choir and got huge enjoyment from being part of the WFCS family." Even after being diagnosed ill Helen continued to enjoy golf and walking in the Lake District. The Lake District was a lifelong interest; she completed all the big peaks there.

To Alistair and to all of Helen's family WFCS sends our condolences on Helen's death.

SEND US YOUR MEMORIES OF PAT

The August issue of the Choral Chronicle will contain a Tribute to Patricia, known to all as Pat. Pat sang in WFCS for many years, and, for many of those years, performed the valuable service of running the raffle. Pending the August issue, and with thanks to Dorothy Farnsworth (A) for providing this, we print a photograph of Pat, to the right in the photo, with Marjorie Potts, taken on Pat's 70th birthday on 9 March 2007. **Toby Hooper (email address left) welcomes recollections of Pat from those who knew her for inclusion in the Tribute.**



MIKE WILSON

As this issue of the Choral Chronicle was in preparation we sadly learned that Mike Wilson (B) has died. To Gail, who sings with us as Alto, and to their family, WFCS sends our condolences on Mike's death.

We shall include a Tribute to Mike in the next issue.

GDPR and WFCS



The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) comes into force on 25 May 2018. WFCS is obliged to comply with GDPR because communications between WFCS and members fall outside the scope of the purely “personal and household” data use exemption.

The Committee has put members to the trouble of completing and returning the Data Consent Form so that WFCS can record and respect communication preferences. The Committee has published the necessary Data Policy on the website, and made hard copies available at rehearsals for members’ convenience.

The plain fact is that from 25 May WFCS will only be permitted to make contact with its members in accordance with, and to the extent of, the specific consents for which we have asked and which we receive. And, anyway, we aspire to best appropriate data protection standards in the interests of members’ personal data to the extent that it is in our power to do so.

Many of you helpfully and purposefully distribute fliers and other publicity materials for WFCS and our concerts. There is no data protection restriction on you doing this on a personal basis to family, friends and neighbours. If, however, you use another organisation’s contact list for this purpose you can only do this in compliance with GDPR if you are acting in accordance with that other organisation’s Data Consents and Data Policy. Similarly, WFCS cannot inform you about other organisations’ events which may be of interest to you unless you give specific consent that we may do so.

The Committee member responsible for GDPR is Toby Hooper. Please email any questions about GDPR as it applies to WFCS to Toby at hooper.toby@btopenworld.com

THREE CHOIRS FESTIVAL HEREFORD

28 July - 4 August 2018

This year’s Three Choirs Festival – in which a number of WFCS chorus members will sing as part of the Festival Chorus – takes place in Hereford.

Details of the full Festival programme are being announced on Tuesday 20th March.

Geraint Bowen, Artistic Director of Hereford’s Three Choirs Festival 2018, initially explained: “A century after the passing of the 1918 Representation of the People Act we open the festival with a rare performance of the Mass in D by Ethel Smyth, a prominent member of the suffragette movement. Described by Bernard Shaw as “magnificent” and championed, along with her other works, by Beecham, the work deserves to be better known and more frequently performed”.

Other works to be performed during the week include Holst’s The Planets, Elgar’s King Olaf (Festival premier, with Sir Andrew Davis), Monteverdi’s Vespers, Bruckner’s Te Deum, Parry’s Invocation to Music (with Sir Andrew Davis), Stravinsky’s Symphony of Psalms, and Brahms’ Requiem.

Details - www.3choirs.org



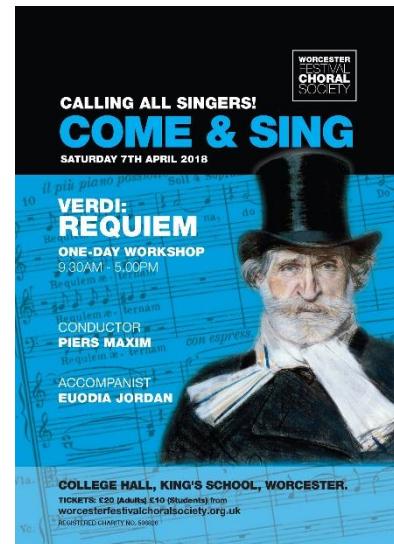
COME & SING VERDI'S REQUIEM

Make sure you book your ticket and invite your friends to our annual Come & Sing one-day workshop – a fantastic way for both members and non-members to enjoy one of the ‘choral greats’!

We'll be under the baton of Piers Maxim, a former chorister at St Paul's Cathedral who has conducted worldwide and was former chorus master for the Belgian National Opera. He is now Director of Music at Great Malvern Priory and Conductor of Elgar Chorale.

The price of £20 (adults) and £10 (students) includes a vocal score for the day and free tea and coffee. Participants can even book a home-made packed lunch.

Online booking and a downloadable information leaflet /postal booking form are at www.worcesterfestivalchoralsociety.org



PRE-PERFORMANCE TIPS & TRICKS

The following article in *Highnotes*, Spring 2018 issue, makes for timely reading as we approach our next concert. Under the title of Practice Makes Perfect, the article offers a "checklist for taming pre-performance nerves":

- When you are practising on your own, tackle the bits that are the trickiest first each time and get those under your belt.
- In the lead up to a performance, prioritise your practice time and stick to it.
- Write down a list of all your skills and strengths and keep them close by whenever you are practising.
- Integrate relaxation and similar techniques into your practice time - like mindfulness or meditation.
- Research says that the brain reacts the same way to real or imagined situations, so

start training yourself to think positively and practice seeing yourself performing well.

- If you're feeling the adrenalin, this means that you're ready! Without it, a performance is likely to be less exciting for you and your audience. Working at visualising a good performance will help you manage your adrenaline.
- If you make a mistake, re-focus and keep going. If you forget to come in, others will help you out and your "muscle memory" will kick in.
- And finally (and most importantly) don't forget to enjoy yourself!



THANKS TO OUR CONCERT PROGRAMME ADVERTISERS



In this issue we are reminding members about our concert programme paid advertisers in Season 2017-18. This is both by way of encouragement to members to suggest potential advertisers not yet known to us but whom we might approach, and as a 'Thank You' to our current advertisers for their welcome support for WFCS and for their colourful contributions to our Concert Programmes.

Toby Hooper (T), advertising coordinator

OUR CURRENT PAID ADVERTISERS (alphabetical order)

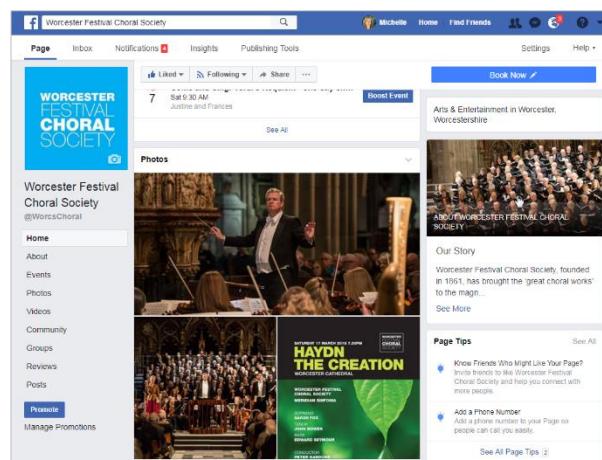
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HELP US FIND NEW AUDIENCES via FACEBOOK & TWITTER

Aimed at helping us reach new concert audiences, our followings on the WFCS Facebook and Twitter feeds have continued to grow. Both are packed with continually updated WFCS concert news, local events, interesting ideas, fun updates, local news and much more, all year round. Please help us to spread the message still further and gather new audiences for the future:

-  If you are on Facebook, please [Like the WFCS Facebook page](#) and Like/Share our posts to your family, friends and music-loving contacts.
-  If you are on Twitter, please [follow our WFCS Twitter feed](#) and Like/RT our messages to the wider world.





NON-WFCS EVENTS FOR YOUR POTENTIAL INTEREST

Sunday 18 March, 6.30pm, Worcester Cathedral: Stainer *Crucifixion* Sung by Worcester Cathedral Voluntary Choir

Friday 23 March, 7.30pm, Worcester Cathedral Quire: Purely Lent 2: Music for Passiontide Haydn: Seven Last Words From The Cross With readings by the Dean. Tickets £15, or £5 for under 18's, from Worcester Live Box Office 01905 611427

Saturday 24 March, 7.30pm, St Martin's Church, London Road, Worcester: Handel *Passion* & Bach extracts including from *St John Passion* Elgar School of Music Baroque Singers & Orchestra, Director John Wilderspin. Details www.elgarschoolofmusic.org.uk

Thursday 29 March, 1.10pm, Worcester Cathedral, Lady Chapel: Purely Lent 3: Music for Passiontide Devotional Concert for Maundy Thursday. Free admission, retiring collection

Friday 6 April, 7.45pm, Worcester Cathedral: Roderick Williams and English Song With Orchestra of The Swan Tickets from Worcester Live Box Office 01905 611427. WFCS members are offered 2-for-1 on tickets - for the offer code see Sally's email to WFCS members of 4 March

Wednesday 18 April, 7.30pm, Hereford Cathedral, College Hall: Illustrated Talk on Elgar by Wendy Hill In anticipation of this being performed at the Hereford Three Choirs Festival. Details www.3choirs.org

Friday 4 - Monday 7 May, Gloucester Choral Society: Parry and his Pupils Festival Details www.3choirs.org

Saturday 5 May, 7.30pm, Worcester Cathedral: Elgar *Violin Concerto* and Beethoven 9th Symphony Orchestra of St John. Tickets 01527 869495

Wednesday 9 May, 7.45pm, Malvern Theatres, Forum Theatre: Italian Sunshine – Rossini, Mozart, Mendelssohn. Orchestra of the Swan with pianist Bernard D'Ascoli. Tickets www orchestraoftheswan.org

Saturday 26 May, 7.30pm, Crowle Parish Church: Worcester Cathedral Chamber Choir Summer Concert Details www.worcestercathedralchamberchoir.co.uk. (And they perform the same programme on Saturday 30 June at St George's Church, Barbourne – see below)

Saturday 23 June, 7.30pm, Gloucester Cathedral: Monteverdi *Vespers of 1610* City of Birmingham Choir with The Musical and Amicable Society. Adrian Lucas, Conductor

Saturday 30 June, 7.30pm, St George's Church, Barbourne: Worcester Cathedral Chamber Choir Summer Concert Details www.worcestercathedralchamberchoir.co.uk.

Saturday 30 June, 7.00pm, Tewkesbury Abbey: Jonathan Dove *For An Unknown Soldier* Details www.tewkesburyabbey.org.uk/music

Saturday 28 July - Saturday 4 August: Hereford Three Choirs Festival

AND: Frequent Thursday Lunchtime (1.00pm) Worcester Cathedral Organ Recitals (Piano 17 May)
Check Worcester Cathedral website for details

WFCS DIARY DATES 2018-19

Come & Sing: Verdi *Requiem*

College Hall 10.15am - 4.45pm. Details at: www.worcesterfestivalchoralsociety.org.uk

First rehearsal of 2018-19 season

Saturday 7 April 2018

Autumn half term break (no rehearsal)

Monday 10 September 2018

Autumn Concert – Poulenc *Gloria* /
Vaughan Williams *Hodie*

Saturday 17 November 2018

Winter Concert – Handel *Messiah*

Saturday 8 December 2018

First rehearsal of Spring term 2019

Monday 7 January 2019 (tbc)

Spring half term break (no rehearsal)

Monday 18 February 2019

Spring Concert – Mendelssohn *Elijah*

Saturday 23 March 2019

Come & Sing: Beethoven *Mass in C*

Saturday 6 April 2019

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REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 506826

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