

# *The Choral Chronicle*



**Summer 2016**

**From The Editors**

**Toby and Anna Hooper**

We are publishing this Issue of the Choral Chronicle in anticipation of the commencement of the WFCS Season 2016 / 17 with our first rehearsal at 7:30 PM on Monday 5 September in Worcester Cathedral.

In this Issue we remind you of the Programme for this Season, and WFCS Tickets Secretary Judy Jenkins (A) introduces developments in concert seating arrangements and concert ticket sales arrangements. We also remind you of ways in which various members of the Society work to raise funds to keep subscriptions down and the quality of our accompanying orchestra and soloists high, namely the Patrons scheme, the weekly raffle, and the 100 Club, and also work on social activities.

We also look back briefly to the recently completed successful Gloucester Three Choirs Festival, and ahead to the magnificent programme for the Worcester Three Choirs Festival 2017 which our Director Dr Peter Nardone, Artistic Director of the Festival, has recently announced.

All in all, an exciting 12 months in prospect!

Lastly from the Editors, please provide us with any information which you would like to see published in the Choral Chronicle, and tell the Committee how you would like to see the distribution of information within the Society develop.

## **Programme for Season 2016 / 17**

Autumn Concert: Saturday 19 November 2016:

Lauridsen: Lux aeterna

Haydn: Nelson Mass

Messiah: Saturday 10 December 2016

Spring Concert: Saturday 25 March 2017:

Dvorak: Slavonic Dances

Brahms: A German Requiem

A note on Morten Lauridsen's Lux aeterna: Lauridsen was born in the Pacific Northwest of the USA in 1943. The Los Angeles Master Chorale gave the first performance of Lux aeterna on 13 April 1997. For your Editors, who are unfamiliar with Lauridsen, the CD of a number of his works, including Lux aeterna, by Polyphony and the Britten Sinfonia conducted by Stephen Layton on Hyperion has proved a valuable introduction. The CD is accompanied by informative notes by Byron Adams. He quotes the Times music critic Hilary Finch as noting that Lux aeterna is a "classic of new American choral writing. In this light-filled continuum of secret texts, old world structures and new world spirit intertwine in a cunningly written score, at once sensuous and spare". Byron Adams also quotes Lauridsen himself as describing Lux aeterna as an "intimate work of quiet serenity" that expresses "hope, reassurance, faith and illumination in all of its manifestations". It is clear that

WFCS will be grateful to Peter Nardone for introducing us to another significant contemporary choral composer.

## Dates for your Diary 2016 / 17

First Rehearsal date of Autumn term 2016: Monday 5 September  
Half Term Break: Monday 24 October  
Autumn Concert: 2016 Saturday 19 November [Details above]  
Messiah 2016: Saturday 10 December  
Spring Concert 2017: Saturday 25 March 2017 [Details above]  
Quiz Night: Friday 7 April 2017, Powick Village Hall  
Worcester Three Choirs Festival: Saturday 22 July to Saturday 29 July 2017

## Seating and Ticket Sales Arrangements for Season 2016 / 17

This year we will be performing from a position in front of the Quire, under the Tower, facing west.

You already know that in the course of the past year our Tickets Secretary, Judy Jenkins (A), and her husband, have achieved the magnificent feat of creating an online ticket sales facility for WFCS concerts which we are encouraged to use. Judy has provided the following Note about current ticket sales arrangements. The Note refers to a Seating Plan which introduces us to the new seating arrangements and which shows availability at 1 August. We show the Seating Plan below. As Judy explains in her Note, the online ticket sales arrangements are now Live, so for up-to-date availability, and to buy tickets, go to: [www.worcesterfestivalchoralsociety.org.uk/members](http://www.worcesterfestivalchoralsociety.org.uk/members)

### Tickets for WFCS Concerts: Season 2016 / 17

#### A Note from Judy Jenkins, Tickets Secretary

*We have to adopt a new Cathedral Seating Plan for our next Season of concerts in which the audience will be east-facing. This has presented many problems for all concerned; not the least being the necessity to give concessionary prices for those whose view is obscured by the pulpit. The plan shows these, the seats held by Worcester Live and those available on-line. The seats already taken by Patrons (who have priority booking), and those reserved for VIPs and guests of soloists are also shown. These were all correct on Aug 1<sup>st</sup> but Booking is now LIVE.*

As usual, you can book tickets in several ways:-

*\*Worcester Live Box Office – in person or on 01905 611427 (A booking fee will be charged)*

*\*On-Line from our website by clicking on 'Buy Tickets'. (A booking fee will be charged) You can choose to print off your E- tickets (free) or have 'mobile tickets' sent to your Mob 'phone or they will be posted to you (both chargeable).*

*Both systems now work very efficiently and I will not need to be selling tickets on Monday nights at 7pm in September. However, I can answer your queries and help out with any problems you may have. I have access and can monitor the on-line sales at any time.*

Just a reminder here of what's available :-

*\*Concessions apply for people aged 60yrs+ and full-time students (excluding front nave)*

*\*A limited number of accessible seats with adjacent free companion seat are available through me.*

*\*Children aged 9-15 accompanying a paying adult are admitted free.*

Members' Discounts available through me :-

*\*Buy 5 tickets and get one free (ideal to give away tickets to someone new to choral music or as a present)*

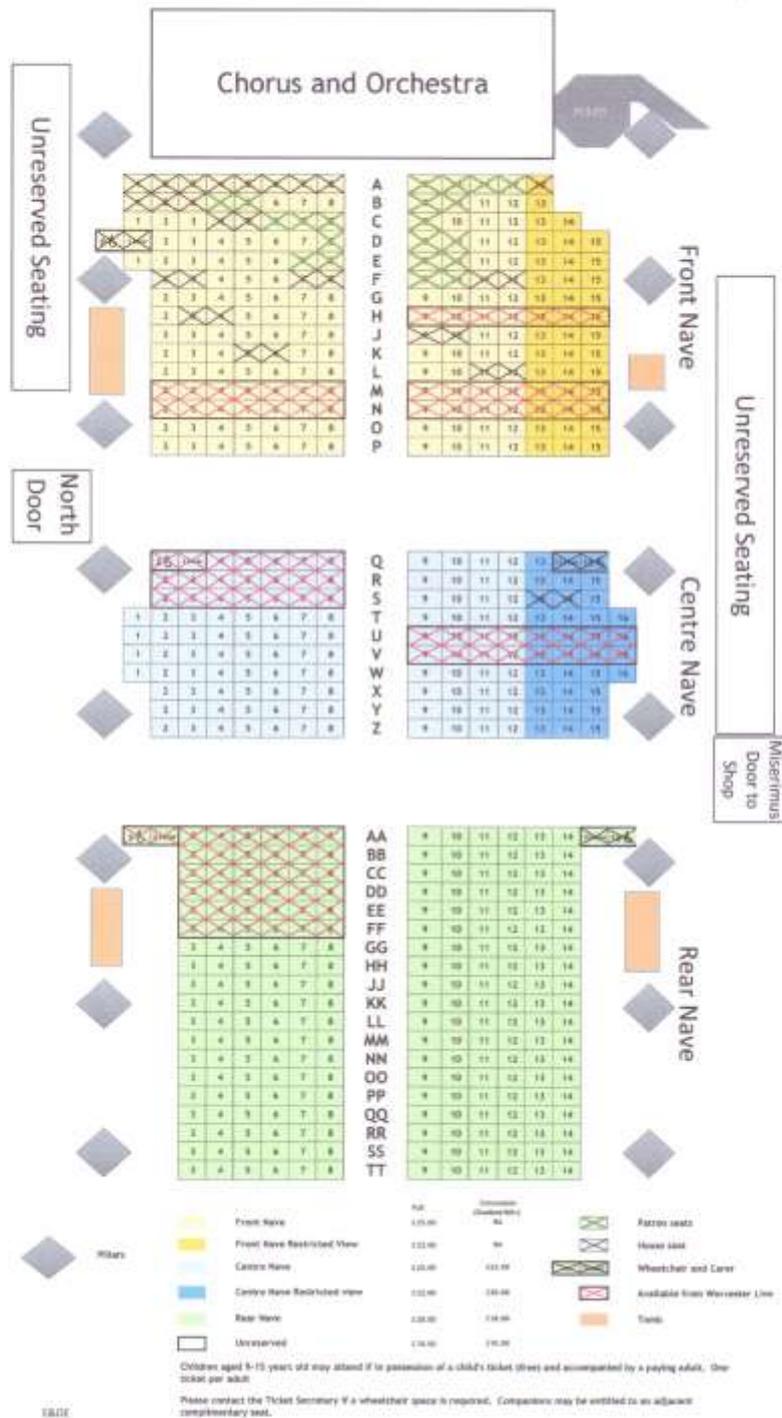
*\*Buy one ticket for each of our three concerts and get a 20% discount on that package.*

*ie 3 Front Nave tickets = £60 instead of £75.*

Here is the Seating Plan under the new arrangements:

# Worcester Festival Choral Society

Cathedral Seating Plan (August 2016)



While we do not wish to distract you during rehearsals, you may be interested to know that the Worcester News announced on 28 July 2016 that the Cathedral has received a substantial grant from the First World War Centenary Fund, a Treasury initiative of 2014, to pay for the restoration of the west window, one of a series of windows designed and installed in the Cathedral by John Hardman & Co of Birmingham between 1854 and 1875. The window depicts the story of the Creation. This outcome is the achievement of the Dean and Chapter, and their staff and professional advisers, and follows an earlier successful application to the same Fund in respect of the Cathedral's east window, also by Hardman; that restoration was completed last year.

## WFCS Patrons scheme, weekly raffle, and 100 Club

Those who work on these valuable fundraising arrangements will be on hand at rehearsals to provide information about them and encourage participation.

The Patrons scheme allows pre-booking of chosen seats for all the concerts in a Season, and various benefits including concert interval refreshments in the Chapter House.

The weekly raffle provides the opportunity of splendid prizes for modest investment. The organisers welcome contributions of the splendid prizes.

Likewise, the 100 Club provides the opportunity of handsome cash prizes for modest investment.

All these hard-worked initiatives help to keep subscriptions down and concert quality high.

### **Social activities**

Our Social Secretary, Sue White (A), thanks all the chorus members who have contributed food and time to hosting the refreshments for the orchestra on concert days (Orchestra Teas). This is much appreciated not only by Sue for helping her but also by the visiting orchestral players whom this hospitality makes feel valued and welcome. This is a not-to-be-underestimated factor in the good reputation we enjoy among orchestral players we wish to attract.

So please listen out at rehearsals as concerts approach for Sue's requests for contributions to the Orchestra Teas, and, of course, for Sue's announcements about particular social activities including Quiz Nights (Next Quiz Night: Friday 7 April 2017, Powick Village Hall).

### **WFCS Website and Link to Amazon**

As you know, the WFCS website is easily navigable, informative, and colourful. One detail is the link to Amazon, and the financial benefit to the Society of using it. Link above.

### **Gloucester Three Choirs Festival 2016**

Several WFCS members sang at this summer's successful Gloucester Three Choirs Festival. Highlights of this Festival included Gloucester Cathedral choral scholar Magnus Walker, 18, stepping into the breach at 90 minutes notice to sing the tenor solo part in Elgar's The Kingdom in the opening concert, and Peter Nardone conducting Mendelssohn's Elijah, which WFCS members had the opportunity to sing with Peter in a Singalong earlier this year. The Festival Chorus sang these works and several others including the Vaughan Williams Dona Nobis Pacem which we sang in our Spring Concert this year. In due course concert reviews will be posted at [www.3choirs.org](http://www.3choirs.org)

### **Worcester Three Choirs Festival: Saturday 22 July to Saturday 29 July 2017**

For singers and audience alike, the Worcester Three Choirs Festival 2017, for which Peter Nardone as Artistic Director has recently announced the Programme, promises to be a thrilling event. Applications to sing in the Festival Chorus will be invited from among WFCS members during the coming term. Information about the Festival, and about when and how tickets will be made available, is (or soon will be) available on the Three Choirs Festival website: [www.3choirs.org](http://www.3choirs.org)

You may know that each Festival City maintains a Festival Friends organisation which financially supports its City's Festival. Each welcomes participation and contribution. Worcester's Friends organisation, the Friends of the Worcester Three Choirs Festival, can be contacted through the main Festival website at [www.3choirs.org](http://www.3choirs.org) . Worcester Friends events in the run-up to next year's Festival will be delightfully enjoyable in themselves and will represent a significant financial contribution to the Festival.

The Programme Summary as it appears in the publicity leaflet is:

## SATURDAY 22 JULY

### Evening

Elgar *Great is the Lord*  
Britten *Four Sea Interludes*  
from *Peter Grimes*  
Tippett *A Child of Our Time*

### Daytime and late night

- Opening Service, Worcester Cathedral
- David Hurley English song recital
- Dixieland Jazz

## SUNDAY 23 JULY

### Evening

Mendelssohn *St Paul*

### Daytime and late night

- Festival Eucharist, Worcester Cathedral
- Beethoven and Tippett string quartets

## MONDAY 24 JULY

### Evening

William Lloyd Webber  
*Aurora*  
Poulenc *Organ Concerto*  
Saint-Saens *Symphony No 3 'Organ'*  
Wayne Marshall *organ*

### Daytime and late night

- Worcester Girl Choristers in concert
- Opus Anglicanum *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*
- Musical and Amicable Society: period-instrument performances of Bach and Vivaldi

## TUESDAY 25 JULY

### Evening

Elgar *The Dream of Gerontius*

Martyn Brabbins  
*guest conductor*



© Nicola J. White  
Kitty Whately

### Daytime and late night

- Three Cathedral Choirs perform Handel's *Ode for St Cecilia's Day* and Purcell's *Hail Bright Cecilia*
- Vespers workshop with Opus Anglicanum

## WEDNESDAY 26 JULY

### Evening

Strauss *Metamorphosen*  
Torsten Rasch *A Welsh Night\** (world premiere)  
Janacek *Glagolitic Mass*

Sarah Connolly  
*mezzo-soprano\**  
Frank Beermann  
*guest conductor*

### Daytime and late night

- Marsyas Trio: Echoes of a Distant Land
- National Youth Choir of Great Britain Fellowship Octet

## THURSDAY 27 JULY

### Evening

Jonathan Dove *There was a Child*  
Fauré *Requiem*

### Daytime and late night

- Proteus Ensemble: 'An English Celebration'
- The Cardinal's Musick: music by Taverner, Byrd and Tallis

## FRIDAY 28 JULY

### Evening

Mozart *Mass in C 'The Great'*  
Shostakovich *Symphony No 12 in D minor 'The Year 1917'*

### Daytime and late night

- Wayne Marshall organ recital
- Kitty Whately recital including new commission by Sally Beamish to text by Alexander McCall Smith
- Lay Clerks in Concert

## SATURDAY 29 JULY

### Evening

Vaughan Williams  
*Serenade to Music*  
Finzi *Dies Natalis*  
Howells *Hymnus Paradisi*

### Daytime and late night

- Choir of King's College, Cambridge
- Vocal trio Voice, including new work by Roderick Williams



The Cardinal's Musick

All details subject to alteration

## Worcester Festival Choral Society Committee Contacts

Chairman  
General Secretary  
Treasurer  
Membership and Website  
Tickets Secretary  
Librarian  
Patrons Secretary  
Social Secretary  
Marketing & Publicity

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David Norledge (T)  
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