

FROM OUR NEW CHAIRMAN

Although we thanked Ben at our first concert of the season, I wanted to mention his chairmanship in this publication. Having nearly completed my first season in office, his nine years at the helm and the commitment and good-humoured leadership that he showed over that period, is all the more impressive! He brought inclusivity to the choir and every member was important which has helped to inculcate a friendly, unified atmosphere and confidence in our ability. Thank you again Ben.

Looking at our 2023-24 season so far, our first concert of this season was a success and happily attracted a much larger audience than we expected based on previous years. The members of the audience that I spoke to were very impressed and enjoyed our rendition of the Brahms *Ein Deutsches Requiem* – who wouldn't!

And then we had *Messiah*; our two weeks' re acquaintance with the score obviously rekindled that eternal Handel flame that keenly burns in us all! I heard lots of members of the audience saying how much they enjoyed our performance and the soloists and deciding it was the best ever – the number of people who came to listen certainly was one of the largest audiences that we have attracted for many years, well done to you all. I am writing this before our March concert so am hoping for a good audience after a slow post-Christmas start. Fingers crossed! How lucky we are to sing *Mirror of Perfection* in the presence of the composer Dr Blackford and his wife Clare. One to remember.

The first concert of next season, 2024-25, you will know is a rerun of the infamous concert featuring Faure and Mozart that was cancelled at the 23rd hour in November 2022. Let's hope it is second time lucky; if any more of the Cathedral drops off in November, I think we should take it personally! Then Bach's *St Matthew Passion* to tackle in March 2025 - not for the faint hearted but under the enthusiastic direction of Sam keenly accompanied by Nick, and our own hard work and conviction, I feel sure we can produce a good performance. Much to look forward to!

May I take this opportunity to sincerely thank our committee and other helpers involved in putting the concerts and Come and Sing together, for all their hard work over the season – fabulous teamwork which is directly responsible for our success both on and off the stage.

We would dearly like other members of the choir to come and offer to join the team and helpers. 'Many hands make light work' I think is the adage. Please make yourselves known to any committee member if you think you could help. You would be helping the choir to flourish for future years.

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Sue White (S)
Chairman



A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

I have thoroughly enjoyed our 2023 – 2024 season so far, with one more concert to come, too! We started with a personal favourite, *Ein Deutsches Requiem* by Johannes Brahms, in which the music and German text was performed confidently and with such weight of expression. The concert started with an instrumental work by Wagner – a Christmas present to his wife, *Siegfried Idyll* – which showed off the playing of the Meridian Sinfonia at its best!

Our annual performance of Handel's *Messiah* was as big a success as ever. 'It gets better every year', people say, and I would have to agree. We have our work cut out for us in December 2024, but I'm sure we will rise to it!

The final concert of the season sees the pairing of Beethoven's *Mass in C* with a work by contemporary composer Richard Blackford, *Mirror of Perfection*, more about which you can read in this newsletter! I am looking forward to this concert very much indeed, not only for the chance to bring Richard's beautiful score to life, but also to give a concert performance of the Beethoven. I will always associate this work closely with WFCS, having led a 'Come and Sing' day on the work in April 2019, between my appointment in Worcester and taking up the post that September. What a happy day that was, and what a happy concert day I'm sure we shall enjoy!

Samuel Hudson
Director of Music and
Conductor



Ein Deutsches Requiem November 2023

MIRROR OF PERFECTION

A BRIEF HISTORY FROM THE COMPOSER



I wrote and conducted the premiere of *Mirror of Perfection* in 1996 at the request of Dame Merle Park for the Royal Ballet School, of which I was Director of Music. To my surprise and delight the conductor Ronald Corp programmed it shortly afterwards at the Royal Festival Hall with his New London Choir, and at that concert Peter Gelb, head of Sony Classics, offered to release it on CD. Also in the audience was the BBC Producer Peter Maniura, who simultaneously commissioned a BBC music film of the piece, with Jeremy Irons narrating the words of St Francis of Assisi between the movements. It was called *Seven Canticles of St. Francis*. Since then, *Mirror* has been

performed over 160 times in the UK, Israel, the USA, Italy, Germany, Czech Republic and, most recently in Palma Cathedral, Mallorca in the presence of Queen Sophia of Spain. Perhaps the most poignant performance of all was that given by the Bournemouth Symphony Chorus in the Lower Basilica of San Francesco in Assisi, with the choir and orchestra performing literally above the tomb of the saint. I'll never forget the sight of the Franciscans, who refused to take seats that could be occupied by visitors, standing in a horseshoe around the Lower Basilica, listening intently to the music.

Richard Blackford

PRE-CONCERT TALK

We are excited to tell you that Richard Blackford has agreed to give a talk on his beautiful cantata, *Mirror of Perfection*, in the Chapter House immediately after our pre concert rehearsal on Saturday 16th March.

Richard's talk will begin at 4:45 pm and finish by 5:20 pm giving you plenty of time to return home or have a meal before returning to the Chapter House by 7:00 pm in time to begin lining up for our performance.

Entrance to the talk is completely free but we ask you to let us know if you will be attending by sending an email to tickets@wfcs.online by Wednesday 13 March.

Drinks and nibbles will be provided.

WORCESTER FESTIVAL CHORAL SOCIETY

PRE-CONCERT TALK

with
award-winning composer
RICHARD BLACKFORD

An unmissable personal insight
into his beautiful cantata
MIRROR OF PERFECTION
*inspired by the words of
St Francis of Assisi*

Saturday 16 March
4.45pm - 5.20pm
arrive from 4.30pm

CHAPTER HOUSE
Worcester Cathedral
with drinks & nibbles

FREE ENTRY
but to let us know you are coming, please email by Weds 13 March:
tickets@wfcs.online

Worcester Festival Choral Society, a Registered Charity 1046802

BEETHOVEN'S *MASS IN C* The poorly-received first performance

My thanks to Nicholas Freestone for the following

Ludwig van Beethoven's *Mass in C* was commissioned by Prince Nikolaus Esterházy II in 1807, when Beethoven was 37 years of age. This commission was an extension of a tradition established by Joseph Haydn, who had been the family's *Kapellmeister* for a number of decades and dedicated one mass to them each year. Haydn ceased the annual composition in 1802 owing to his failing health, and after a five year break the Prince asked Beethoven (who had been Haydn's pupil) to reprise the tradition.

Beethoven did not take this commission lightly: in a letter to the Prince, he wrote, "may I just say that I will hand the mass over to you with great trepidation, as Your Serene Highness is accustomed to having the inimitable masterworks of the great Haydn performed."

It is clear from that Beethoven studied Haydn's masses as he composed the *Mass in C*. His sketches for the Gloria include two passages copied from Haydn's *Schöpfungsmesse*.

The premiere performance was given by the Prince's own musical forces in Eisenstadt on 13th September 1807. Unfortunately, the performance was under-rehearsed (it has been noted that only one of the five altos in the choir attended the rehearsal) and the new mass was not well received by the Prince. He asked Beethoven "what is it that you have done?" immediately after the performance, causing Beethoven to leave the room in anger.

The Prince betrayed even more strident views of the piece in a letter to the Countess Henriette von Zielinska, where he wrote, "Beethoven's mass is unbearably ridiculous and detestable, and I am not convinced that it can ever be performed properly. I am angry and mortified."

The musicologist Charles Rosen has described the performance of the *Mass in C* as Beethoven's "most humiliating public failure".

The mass was eventually published by Breitkopf & Hartel in 1812, when it was dedicated to a different prince, Prince Kinsky of Wchinitz and Tettau, no doubt as a result of the traumas involved with the first performance and the reaction that it generated.

Whilst still the least widely performed of Beethoven's major works (and, in many ways, usurped by the later *Missa Solemnis*), the *Mass in C* is now recognised for its structure and orchestration by musicologists.

Nicholas Freestone
Worcester Cathedral Deputy Director of Music
WFCS Accompanist



We are sure our performance will be better received. This banner on the cross roads at Ombersley is easily visible to motorists and to pedestrians passing through the village in four directions.



LOOKING AHEAD TO **WORCESTER THREE CHOIRS** 27 July – 3 August 2024



Fifty-eight members of the Society successfully auditioned for the Three Choirs Festival Chorus back in October. The prepared part of the audition was from the Benedictus in Sarah Kirkland Snider's *Mass for the Endangered* which receives its UK premier at the Festival on 29th July. The Festival in Worcester this year starts for the Chorus with Holst - *Hymn of Jesus* and Stanford - *Stabat Mater* on 27th July and finishes with Elgar - *The Kingdom* on 3rd August with a full week of music making in between. The full programme launch is on 15th March, member's booking starts on 8th April with general booking on 29th April.

Festival Voices is a separate Chorus designed both for singers who can't commit to a full festival week and those who don't yet feel ready

for our auditioned chorus, the Three Choirs Festival Voices performs in one concert within the festival week. Opportunities exist for local performers to take part on the Bandstand in the Festival Village and there is a participation project "Nature Sings" involving local schools. Volunteering opportunities exist for a variety of roles to support the Festival.

Detailed information on all of the above is available on the Three Choirs website <https://3choirs.org/>



COME & SING **ROSSINI!**

13 April: 1-day choral workshop hosted by WFCS

Please support our popular annual Come & Sing one-day choral workshop at St Andrew's Methodist Church, Worcester on Saturday 13 April – which we greatly rely on as our biggest WFCS fund-raiser of the year!

WORCESTER FESTIVAL CHORAL SOCIETY

COME & SING ROSSINI

Petite Messe Solennelle

Saturday 13 April 2024

Love singing?
Join our choral workshop to learn and perform this choral masterpiece in just one day!

St Andrew's Methodist Church
Pump Street, Worcester WR1 2QT

Registration from 9.30am
Workshop 10.15am – 4.45pm

Christopher Allsop conductor
Nicholas Freestone accompanist

TICKETS £22 (adults) / £10 (students)
www.wfcs.online / 0333 666 3366
(Small cat. price & booking fees apply)

Worcester Festival Choral Society is a Registered Charity NF506826

Open both to WFCS chorus members and other amateur singers, this year's Come & Sing workshop offers a chance to learn Rossini's Romantic-era gem, *Petite Messe Solennelle*.

This time we'll be under the expert direction of one of the UK's leading choirmasters (and former WFCS Director of Music!) Eton College Organist and Music Teacher **Christopher Allsop**. We'll also have piano accompaniment from our esteemed WFCS Accompanist, acclaimed organist and recitalist **Nicholas Freestone**; and four talented soloists will join us for the informal afternoon performance.

Combining drama, pathos and colour, the 1863 *Petite Messe Solennelle* was Rossini's last serious composition. Though a heartfelt religious work, it was written for a Paris salon rather than a church, and is full of the delightful touches of an astonishing man of the theatre.

Around 150 amateur singers from across the UK are expected to attend. Participants don't need choral experience to take part, but some ability to read music is recommended. Loan of a vocal score and free teas/coffees are included in the ticket price. There will be plenty of refreshment breaks and chances to socialise, plus homemade cakes and pre-orderable hot lunches and

sandwiches to tempt the tastebuds!

Doors open for registration from 9:30am, with singing sessions starting from 10:15am. At 3.45pm there will be an informal performance which singers' guests can attend free of charge. The day closes by 4.45 pm.

It's a wonderful opportunity to bring along your friends for an enjoyable day of music-making. Places are limited, so snap yours up soon! Tickets £20 (adult) and £10 (students) from www.wfcs.online or by phoning 0333 666 3366.

WORCESTER'S FUTURE MUSICIANS

On Saturday 27 April 2024 'MASS IN BLUE' hits town! Will Todd's exhilarating jazz setting of the Latin Mass will be the highlight of a special concert in Worcester Cathedral, the culmination of an educational choral singing project with Worcestershire secondary schools.

Students and teachers from seven local schools will be joined by Worcester Cathedral's Youth Choir (and **Nicholas Freestone** acting as rehearsals accompanist), the RSCM Millennium Youth Choir and a high school choir from the USA in a remarkable local, national and international collaboration.

This ambitious project has given the chance for young people from any background and without previous experience to work with and perform alongside some of the country's leading and most inspiring musicians: conductor **Neil Ferris** (*Chorus Director, BBC Symphony Chorus*), composer **Will Todd** and the **Will Todd Ensemble**, vocalist/composer/workshop leader **Aga Serugo-Lugo**, and saxophone superstar and BBC R3 presenter, **Jess Gillam** MBE.

Around 180 students and teachers will combine to perform the Mass with the 12-piece band and soprano soloist **Lorna James**. The programme includes Will Todd's stunningly beautiful arrangement of *Amazing Grace* (sung at President Barack Obama's Inauguration Day ceremonies) and which, on this occasion, will have the addition of a specially composed saxophone solo for Guest Artist and presenter of the concert, Jess Gillam. Jess will also perform a solo set, and this exciting concert begins with some high-energy choral improvisations led by Aga Serugo-Lugo.

The project has received support from a number of local funders including the Bransford Trust and Worcester City Council, recognising the value and importance of high-quality opportunities that provide multiple benefits and change lives. **These are our choral singers of the future! Do come and support.**

Box Office now open: Worcester Theatres **01905 611427** / worcestertheatres.co.uk



Anne Renshaw
Development, WFCS



FROM THE **MINUTE BOOK**

My thanks to Stephen Greenwood for once more looking through our archives to find something of interest from the minute books. The following section is a transcription of part of the minutes from our 1956-57 season.

"This year, in addition to the November and December concerts, the Society sang the unaccompanied motet *O Bone Jesu* by Palestrina during the interval of an organ recital in February. As an experiment this was sung from the Lady Chapel and many commented on the striking effect this produced.

On Sunday, 2nd June, 1957, Members of the Society took part in the Elgar Centenary Service which was broadcast on the BBC Home Service. The music included "*The Spirit of the Lord*" from "*The Apostles*", and Norma Procter sang "*The Angel's Farewell*" from "*The Dream of Gerontius*". The society also joined in the Festival of Christmas Carols on 19th December, 1956.

The singing membership of the Society reached a record figure of 256 (*how did they fit on the staging! Ed*) and this largely accounted for the satisfactory credit balance of £106 in the General Account, though the concert account showed a loss of £131 on the season. The latter figure stresses the need, in these days of increased production costs caused by higher orchestra and soloists' fees, for increasing the income by widening the sales of tickets.

It is with great regret that the society now says farewell to Mr. David Willcocks as its conductor. Mr Willcocks has been with us for six years and during this time he has given himself wholeheartedly to securing a high standard in the Societies' performances. As enjoyable as the performances were the weekly rehearsals when one experienced many interesting and happy hours under his enthusiastic leadership. The Society expressed its good wishes to Mr Willcocks at an informal sherry party which was held in College Hall on 31 August 1957, and Members and Patrons subscribed together for a Worcester porcelain dinner service, which was presented to him at the gathering by the Bishop of Worcester."



IN MEMORIAM

REMEMBERING PAST MEMBERS

Sadly since the last issue of the Choral Chronicle in August we have have been informed of the deaths of four of our members. We remember them below.

Kate Aydon Alto



Kate Aydon Three Choirs 1999

Kate was borne and brought up in the Thames Valley at Maidenhead.

After 'A levels' she went to Art College in Brighton and subsequently, Central St. Martin's College in London to study Art and Theatre design.

She was married in 1969 and moved with her husband to Manchester where he was at university studying Landscape Design.

Kate's first experience of choral singing was when she joined Bingham Choral Society in Nottinghamshire, together with her sister Jane, ten years her junior, studying for an Accountancy qualification at Nottingham University.

Kate subsequently moved to Worcester in 1988 with two young children, Chloe and Thomas, where her husband, Arthur, established a Landscape design practice.

Kate joined WFCS shortly after her move in 1988 and continued singing with the Society without a break until shortly before her death from MND in September 2023, a matter of some 35 years; including several years from 1994 singing with the Three Choirs Festival Chorus.

In 2004 Kate met and subsequently married Patrick Aydon, himself a chorus member of WFCS for forty years, and a fellow Three Choirs Chorus member.....such is the power of Choral singing! Kate loved her singing and music in general...it really was the rock on which she built her life.

Barbara Hopper Alto

After spending most of their adult lives in the Sheffield area of Yorkshire, Barbara and Peter Hopper retired to Worcester in the year 2000, for better weather midway between various family members. Peter had been a teacher and then a vicar, whilst Barbara had worked in administration, but also wherever they lived Barbara had researched the local history and produced booklets and dramas based on her research, writing sketches, poems, songs and narratives. She had also sung in choral societies where possible.

In 'retirement' Peter led church services all over Worcestershire, whilst Barbara threw herself into Warndon Church, local history and singing, including the Church Singing Group, WFCS and the Three Choirs Festival. She wrote a short history of Warndon Church, which included a lot about the people of the farming community it used to serve. Several booklets followed: *Ages & Ages before Warndon Villages*, *Walking around Warndon Villages* and *Farms of Eastern Worcester*. Finally, after Peter died in 2016, Barbara produced in 2020 another walks booklet entitled *Walks from Lockdown*. All profits from her books went to charity.



Barbara Hopper May 2016

After a few years of health problems, the heavenly choir is now boosted by a new alto voice...



Judith as Lady India in the Swan production of Ring Around the Moon

Judith Holden Alto

Judith was originally from Lancashire and studied music at Homerton College, Cambridge and then Modern Educational Dance at Chelsea College, Eastbourne. She came to Worcester in the 1970s as a Lecturer at the Teacher Training College and she was proud that she was still there when it subsequently became Worcester University.

Judith loved singing and sang with The Elgar Chorale, touring with them to South Africa and France, as well as with WFCS where she enjoyed performing in a number of Three Choirs Festivals. She was also a very fine actor and appeared regularly at the Swan Theatre. Notable parts included the title role in *Miss Jean Brodie*, Nelly Forbush in *South Pacific* and Lady India in *Ring around the Moon*. In collaboration with Gabrielle

Bullock, Judith wrote and performed in a number of Poetry and Music presentations. She died in December at her home.

Adrian Deane Tenor

Until very recently Adrian was singing Second Tenor with WFCS. He died unexpectedly a few days before Christmas. Adrian had many skills and interests: Music was a life-long hobby. He loved folk, blues and classical music. As a child, he was Head chorister at St George's Church, Nailsworth often singing solo for the first verse of Once in Royal David's City at Christmastime. He also sang as a child chorister at the Three Choirs Festival. As an adult, he returned to choral singing, joining the Worcester Festival Choral Society with Christine. He enjoyed being part of many concerts especially Handel's Messiah each December in Worcester Cathedral. At home, a favourite moment was listening to 'Carols at King's' on Christmas morning. Adrian was also a talented bass player, performing in several blues and folk bands including Jigantics and Sons of the Delta. He also enjoyed supporting his fellow band mates at their gigs.

Motorsport was another special interest. He was a Navigator at car rallies and was a big part of local motorsport clubs including EM-COS and Cirencester Car Club. He also loved building and fixing cars at the Barn at Bisley. Adrian was a Licensed Scrutineer at hill climbs including Shelsley Walsh, Prescott, Oulton Park and Curborough and at VSCC (Vintage meetings) & the F1 Grand Prix at Silverstone. He will be greatly missed by all his family and friends in music and motorsport



SPONSORED CYCLE RIDE **FOR MND**



I would like to thank everyone from WFCS who has supported me in raising money for the My Names'5 Doddie Foundation which funds research into MND and support for patients and their relatives.
<https://www.mynames5doddie.co.uk/>

Singing Brahms *Requiem* in November alongside Patrick Aydon in a concert dedicated to his wife Kate a long-term member of the choir who was lost to Motor Neurone Disease last year inspired me to taking part in Doddie aid 2024 by cycling as far as possible between 1 Jan and 3 February.

As I write, close to the end of the challenge, I have covered 509 Miles despite a week of icy weather and a crash on one of the many potholes in Herefordshire. The fund raising has gone more smoothly than the miles on the road and has reached £917 so far and with Gift Aid it is up to £1173. Much of this came from WFCS members.

I took up singing when I retired around 8 years ago and I joined WFCS in November 2022 in time to sing *Messiah* in December. On the other hand I have been a keen cyclist for nearly 55 years, and to quote a song that is unlikely to make the programme of one of our concerts any time soon, "We've been together now for forty years". "That is me and my bike. A Raleigh Classic which I bought new on 26 May 1984 for £265. I guess over those years we have covered at least 100,000 miles. The bike is a little like the Trigger's Broom, it has a just three original parts remaining.

I have a second bike which is also a Raleigh Classic which I keep in close to original condition. In 1987 I met a neighbour, John, because we had identical bikes. More than 20 years on John died of MND and I bought his bike from his widow. In 2022 I did the same Doddie Aid Challenge, with John in mind. Then the weather was kinder to me, I did not crash, and the challenge ran until 12 February. I cycled 1,655 miles and also raised a little over £1,000. I suppose the difference is that two years on I am clearly a little older and a lot slower but one thing has improved, the amount of money I have raised per mile has trebled! I put that down to the generosity of members of WFCS – thanks again to everyone who has sponsored me.

David Moonlight B1

SHOP VIA **AMAZON & THE GIVING MACHINE**

Don't forget that you can also add to the Society's funds at no extra cost to you, when you shop online with hundreds of major retailers, using one of our special WFCS links!

- **AMAZON:** WFCS is an 'Amazon Associate', so can earn a small commission from any qualifying Amazon purchases you make via our special link. Simply go to www.wfcs.online/support_us, click on our Amazon link and start shopping! (NB to achieve commission, this link **MUST** be clicked on directly from our WFCS website, not by pasting the link into your browser)
- **THE GIVING MACHINE:** The Society can also receive a charitable donation from more than 2,000 popular retailers including M&S, Tesco, Boots and Etsy. Simply shop on their sites via TheGivingMachine (a registered charity that acts as a channel to those retailers) and select WFCS as your preferred charity. Again, go to www.wfcs.online/support_us for the link and details

WFCS HITS THE HIGH STREET

Adding to our usual ongoing promotional efforts such as posters, PR, marketing e-mailers, social media, reciprocal advertising and more, WFCS boosted its visibility during this past season with some new strings to its marketing bow...

- Extra-large versions of our concert posters have been seen by thousands of passers-by for several weeks, displayed on the Council's digital information units in Worcester High Street and Parkway Station
- The Crowngate Shopping Centre enabled us to place two, month-long displays in the former Oasis shop window (close to House of Fraser) to publicise our concerts and Come & Sing day
- Five additional outdoor banners highlighting our concerts have been placed alongside roads around Worcester
- A number of Correx advertising boards were placed next to traffic hotspots around Worcester and surrounding villages



Our particular thanks to the 'banner squad' of WFCS members who volunteered their time this season to erect and remove the roadside banners and ad boards: Kirsty Bowie-Jinks, Helen Butler, Anne and Mike Fardon, Judy Jenkins, Alison and John Kemp, Mary Kenchington, Rachel Lambert, Alex Lloyd, Catrin Meredith, Deidre Myers, Jim Norris, Alison Riddell, Carol Sandys and Sue White. We also thank Gabrielle Bullock for kindly displaying our large concert posters on an A-frame outside her antiques shop adjacent to the Cathedral, Bygones of Worcester.



WFCS ONLINE: **STAY UPDATED THIS SUMMER**

As we head towards our summer break, do take advantage of the various online ways to keep in touch with WFCS matters and help spread the word... including our latest concert updates, news and photos, fun updates, and items of local community interest.

- Visit our website for the latest concert and event news, tickets and members' information
- Like our social media pages and share our posts to help spread the word!
 - Facebook (927 followers and counting): @WorcsChoral
 - X (Twitter) (1,077 followers and counting): @WorcsChoral
 - Instagram (148 followers & counting): @WorcsChoral

FUNDS RAISED BY WFCS CALENDARS

Thank you to everyone who last December ordered a 2024 WFCS wall calendar, featuring some of Michael Whitefoot's excellent photos from our past season. Your calendar orders raised more than £200 profit towards WFCS funds!

PLAY THE **WORCESTER COMMUNITY LOTTERY**



Did you know that you, your friends and family can help support WFCS funds by buying tickets for the Worcester Community Lottery? Thanks to Worcester Community Lottery tickets bought by a small number of loyal supporters to date, more than £400 has once again been raised towards WFCS funds through this route in the past year. But with even more players supporting us, we could raise so much more. Several of our supporters have also won money and extra free Lottery tickets along the way and **last year one lucky member matched 5 numbers and scooped the £2,000 prize!**

- Worcester Community Lottery is a weekly online lottery that aims to raise money for local charities and good causes
- Every ticket costs £1. Of this 50p goes directly to the local charity selected by the player. A further 10p goes to other local charities
- The draw takes place every Saturday night at 8pm
- The top prize is £25,000 if 6 numbers are matched, £2,000 if 5 consecutive numbers are matched, and so on.
- The average odds of winning a prize are estimated at 50:1
- Minimum purchase is 1 month (5 wks') worth of tickets (£5 spend)
- Tickets are purchased online at www.worcesterlottery.org

So please consider playing, and telling your friends. Simply choose Worcester Festival Choral Society as the charity you want to benefit, to help contribute to staging our wonderful concerts.

HOW TO PLAY

1. Buy your tickets at www.worcesterlottery.org
2. Choose WFCS from the list of charities you wish to support
3. Check the winning numbers online each Saturday, 8pm

Thank you to all players and **GOOD LUCK!**

Michelle Whitefoot (S)
Marketing & Publicity Officer



CALLING WFCS PATRONS FOR 2024-25

Could you, or a music-lover you know, become an Annual Patron of WFCS? Our special scheme not only enables music-lovers to enjoy all of our WFCS concerts in a seat of their choice – it's also one of our most important income sources to help us continue to bring great choral music to our wonderful city.

For a very reasonable subscription of £135 / season (payable by bank transfer or cheque), Annual Patrons can gain a host of benefits, whilst contributing to WFCS running and staging costs:

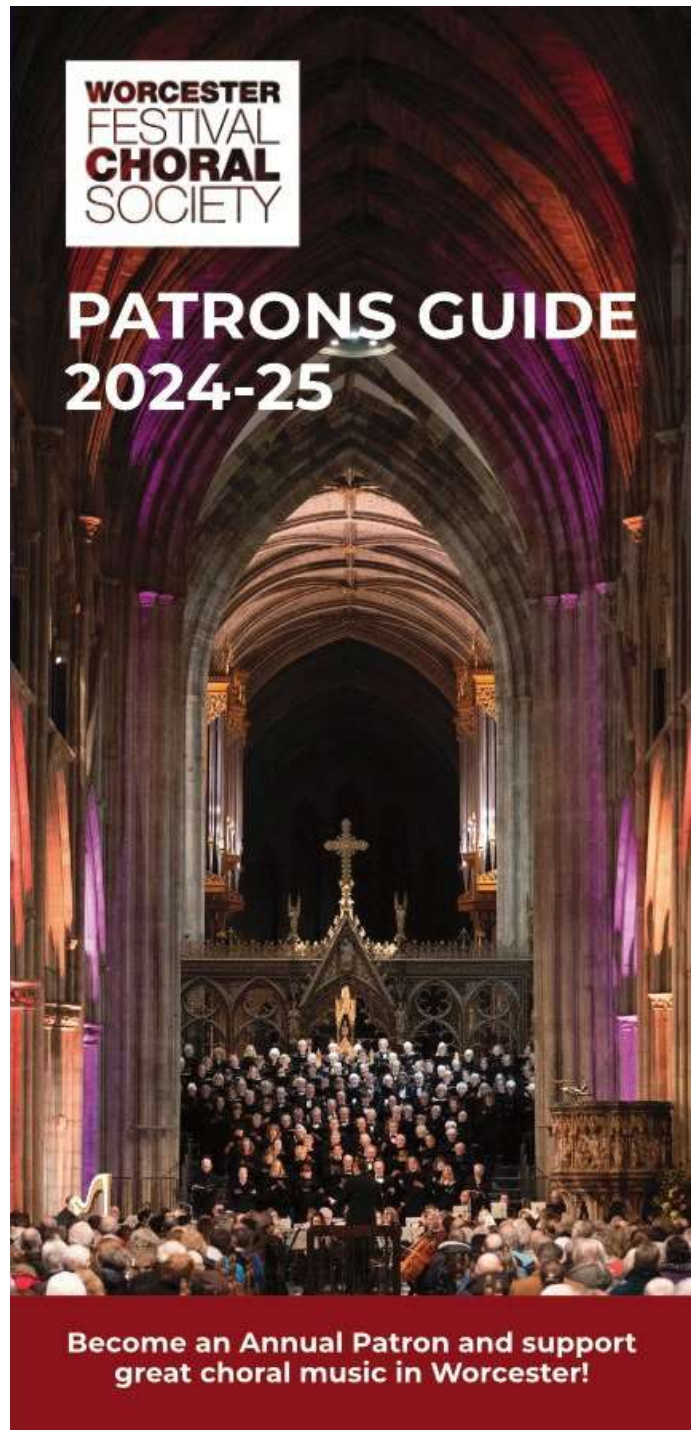
- Front Nave season ticket: A front nave seat at each of our three concerts (value £27 each), with priority seat selection until 30 June 2024
- Complimentary concert programmes
- Complimentary interval refreshments in the Chapter House with chorus and guests
- Your name in our concert programmes (optional)
- Biannual e-newsletter on WFCS activities
- Invitations to our pre-concert talks and social events
- Open invitation to attend WFCS Monday evening rehearsals

PATRONS AMBASSADOR

We are also delighted to have created the new role of 'Patrons Ambassador' this season, in the form of Brian Boswell (not a singing member, but a long-standing WFCS Patron himself). Brian has already been working hard to build links with current and future Patrons, and will be the channel for future Patron's applications. You might spot him chatting to concert-goers in the aisles at our concerts! Contact him at patrons@wfcs.online

WAYS TO APPLY

- Complete a printed copy of our 2024-25 season Patrons Guide application leaflet, available at our Beethoven concert on 16 March (or from our Marketing Officer Michelle Whitefoot)
- Download our Patrons Guide in PDF from our website Patrons Page www.wfcs.online/become-a-patron
- Email Brian Boswell at patrons@wfcs.online



REMINDERS FROM THE **TICKET SECRETARY**

We are busy preparing next Season's concerts and want to make sure that you are all aware of the schedules for ticket selections.

If you can persuade your friends to support us by becoming a Patron, please find information on the wfcs website, in this Chronicle and in the Beethoven programmes. Please select your seats and book by **the end of June**.

Tickets will go on sale to the public **in mid-July**. Remember to watch the website for information and book early to secure the best seats for your family and friends.

There are also several ticket discounts available for chorus members.

Please contact me on tickets@wfcs.online **or call 01905 354533 for these choir member offers.**



Judy Jenkins (A)
Ticket Secretary

TICKET DISCOUNTS FOR CHORUS MEMBERS

- 20% discount if you book seats for all three concerts at the same time (ie a £27 Front Nave ticket for £21.60)
- 'Buy 5 tickets and get 6th free' for any one concert

LOOKING AHEAD TO THE **2024/2025 SEASON**

Please make a note of the following dates

Autumn Term 2024 begins:	Monday 9 September 2024
Half Term:	Monday 28 October 2024
Fauré <i>Requiem</i> and Mozart <i>Solemn Vespers</i> :	Saturday 23 November 2024
Handel <i>Messiah</i> :	Saturday 7 December 2024
Spring Term 2025 begins:	Monday 6 January 2025
Half Term:	Monday 17 February 2025
Bach <i>St Matthew Passion</i> :	Saturday 22 March 2025

UPCOMING MUSICAL EVENTS

The following is a list of a few local events taking place in the late spring and summer which may be of interest.

23 March 7:30 pm Persore Abbey	Elgar Chorale Concert "Wondrous Machine" In this eastern European programme, Paul Trepte showcases Persore's newly built organ, alongside tenor John Upperton , violinist Shulah Oliver and harpist Natasha Gale . Tickets available from elgarchorale.com , BLUE, 19 Broad St, Persore 01386 553847 or Persore Visitor Centre, 34 High St, Persore 01386 561561
7 April 15:30-17:30 Angel Centre Angel Place Worcester	Worcestershire Early Music In stil moderno Nathaniel Mander , harpsichord and Magdalena Loth-Hill , violin, explore sonatas and solos from the 17th and 18th centuries Tickets £20 under 18 free available on the door or from Eventbrite (booking fee applies)
27 April 7:30 pm Worcester Cathedral	William Todd's Mass in Blue See article on P7 Ticket Hotline 01905 611427
4 May 7:00 pm Gloucester Cathedral	Gloucester Choral Society Mendelssohn Elijah Call the box office on 01452 768928 for tickets £25, £18, £10 Students & U25s £5
11 May 7:30 pm St Martin's Church Worcester	Worcester Symphony Orchestra Tchaikovsky – <i>Violin Concerto</i> (soloist: Katy Smith) Sibelius – <i>Symphony no. 2</i>
30 May – 4 June	Elgar Festival Details https://elgarfestival.org
12 June 8:00 pm Hereford Cathedral	Ex Cathedra: Summer Music by Candlelight Phone 01432 340 555 for tickets £15, £25, £35 Or on door until sold out
5 July 7:30 Worcester Cathedral	Warren Mailley-Smith – piano An exceptional piano recital in the candlelit setting of Worcester Cathedral. Renowned British concert pianist, Warren Mailley-Smith , will perform a selection of classical and romantic piano works. Phone 0333 6663366 for tickets £19, £28, £38, £42
6 July St Peter's Church Inkberrow	Elgar Chorale invite you to Come and Sing the Classics Full details www.elgarchorale.com
6 July 7:30 pm Christ Church Malvern	Worcester Symphony Orchestra Mendelssohn – <i>Concert Piece No 1 for Two Clarinets</i> Beethoven – <i>Symphony No 2</i> Brahms – <i>Double Concerto for Violin and Cello</i>
27 July – 3 rd August	Worcester Three Choirs Festival See article on page 5

YOUR WFCS COMMITTEE MEMBERS WHAT THEY DO

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