



CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

Well our next season is upon us! I hope that you are as excited as I am at our forthcoming programme.

Having sung the Poulenc 'Gloria' some years ago I know what a fun and uplifting piece it is. It will certainly 'blow away the cobwebs!' Vaughan-Williams is one of my favourite composers, but I have to confess I have never sung or even heard his 'Hodie'. This having been said, anyone who does know the piece says what a joy it is.

So this term we have two wonderful pieces to get to know and learn together. We will certainly be tested and so I do feel that it is important that all members really strive for full commitment to rehearsals. Should any member miss more than three rehearsals a pre-concert audition will be requested to ensure knowledge of the two pieces. These are the existing society rules, but they are not always brought into action when we are performing a better-known piece such as last Spring with Haydn's 'Creation'.

One of my usual cries at the start of term is, fundraising.... As we all know the society received some very generous bequests last year. These funds guarantee our financial position, but it is very important that we still 'live within our means'. Excluding the bequests the society still recorded a surplus last season, which is great news. Without the bequests, the society's funds would not allow us to perform larger works such as Mendelsohn's 'Elijah' (next term). We must not be complacent and think fundraising can take a back seat. The three concerts in the year cost approximately £40,000 a year to run, the bequests totalled just under £45,000. So you can see, we still need to keep the fundraising going to enable these extra funds to do some good. So please still buy your raffle tickets, join the 100 club, go to the 'pub quiz', or come to the 'Come and Sing'. Also please sell tickets! Singing to a full nave helps not only the bank balance, but it gives us all a huge boost to sing and give our best. Just think, if we each sold 4 tickets we have 600 in the audience, before including our patrons and other regular concert goers....

At this point I like to thank particular members for their hard work, which often goes unnoticed. This time, and in addition to the specific portfolio holders on the committee and their regular hands-on supporters, I would like to draw attention to the 100 club, which Deirdre Myers coordinates, quietly raising funds for the society and giving those who take part the chance to win some money back... that can't be bad! Likewise the raffle, thanks to Ruth Reeves, Penny Searley and Mary Kenchington.

I have to say I still thoroughly enjoy being a part of this wonderful choir. It really is a pleasure for me each week to turn up to rehearsal. Other than making music, I have always enjoyed the social aspect of being in a choir. We have members from all parts of the county (and a couple like me from 'over the hills in Herefordshire!') and from all walks of life. Singing together as members of the Worcester Festival Choral Society is unique. It is in this familial spirit that this issue of the Choral Chronicle welcomes Nicholas Freestone and pays tribute to Donald Hunt, Pat Thompson and Mike Wilson. No two choruses are the same, and I like to think we are really rather special, so thank you one and all!

Ben Cooper (B)

MESSAGE FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

This is the new "Annual Letter": I emailed members on 16 August to say that this year the Annual Members Return / Welcome Letter will be incorporated into this issue of the Choral Chronicle. As we prepare to welcome back returning members and to welcome afresh new members for Season 2018-19 I set out below what you now need to know which the Annual Letter previously contained.

First rehearsal: As you know, the first rehearsal for the 2018-19 Season will take place in the Cathedral at 7:30 PM on Monday 10 September 2018. As usual entrance to the Cathedral for rehearsals is via College Green, the cloister, and the "Misericord" door in the north-west corner of the cloister, by the shop. Here the registers are laid out and the weekly raffle is made available as a significant fundraiser for WFCS. There are three occasions this term when the Cathedral will not be available, these dates are given in this Choral Chronicle and are also marked on the Rehearsal Schedule available from the Members' page of the website. As usual on these occasions rehearsals will be held in Saint Andrews' Church Pump Street.

Register: It is essential that you sign the register each week. As the Chairman says in his Introduction, should any member miss more than three rehearsals a pre-concert audition will be requested.

Collecting music: Please arrive early for the first rehearsal to allow enough time to register and to collect your music. You will need your Chorus Number which can be found both on the inside of your WFCS concert folder and beside your name on the register. Please make sure that you know your number before joining the queue for the music.

Leavers: If you do not intend to return to WFCS this autumn please let me know as soon as possible: rees.sallyjane@gmail.com We do not want to turn away potential new members unnecessarily. Please remember that leavers should return WFCS concert folders to the Librarian Jenny Brumhead (A). If you have paid a deposit this will be returned to you.

Changes of contact details: Please will members keep me informed about changes of contact details or data preferences: email address as above.

Keeping you informed: Please keep in mind that we post useful information for members, including updates about rehearsals, on the Chorus Information Page of our website: www.worcesterfestivalchoralsociety.org.uk

Subscriptions: This season we are once again holding the annual subscription at £125. The subscription covers the whole season irrespective of how many concerts a member sings in and must be paid to the Treasurer David Norledge (T) by 1 October. Cheque payments are of course accepted, but internet banking details are available. While we encourage everyone to pay the full amount by 1 October it is possible to pay in two instalments by prior agreement with David, the second instalment being by post-dated cheque dated 1 February 2019 to be handed in with the first instalment. The Treasurer can also be approached on an individual basis for a reduced sub in cases of hardship.

Concert Tickets: As last year, tickets for all three concerts in this season are now available from our website or from the Worcester Live Box Office at Huntingdon Hall. Please book early to secure your preferred seats! There is a discount of 20% available only to WFCS members if you book seats for all three concerts at the same time. There is also a "Buy 5 And Get 6th Free" for any one concert. Both deals are available by contacting our Tickets Secretary Judy Jenkins (A): jjjenkins@btinternet.com

Sally Rees (S)



WELCOME TO NICHOLAS, OUR NEW ACCOMPANIST

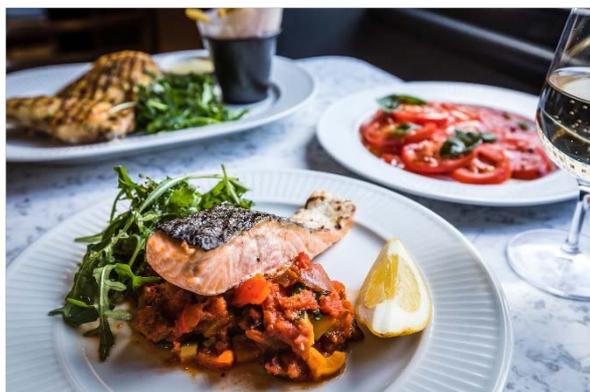
WFCS is delighted to welcome Nicholas Freestone as our new Accompanist.

Nicholas was appointed as Worcester Cathedral's new Assistant Director of Music / Assistant Organist from St Paul's Cathedral, where he was Acting Sub-Assistant Organist. Prior to that he was the Organ Scholar at St Paul's, spent two years at St Albans Cathedral, and held scholarships at Wells Cathedral and Tewkesbury Abbey.

In the Summer 2018 issue of Worcester Cathedral News (always a good read if you do not already see it) Peter Nardone welcomed Nicholas as follows: "I am very pleased to announce that Nicholas Freestone has been appointed to succeed Christopher Allsop as Assistant Director of Music and Assistant Organist at Worcester Cathedral. There was a very strong field of applicants and those on the appointment panel were unanimous in their decision. I look forward to welcoming Nicholas to Worcester". **And so do we at WFCS!**



BON APPÉTIT! Ticket buyers can win pre-concert dinners at Côte Worcester, in new WFCS hospitality sponsorship



We are excited to announce a new 'hospitality sponsorship' initiative between Worcester Festival Choral Society and Côte Restaurant in Worcester during our 2018-19 concert season.

As part of the arrangement, purchasers of WFCS concert tickets booking through our TicketSource box office (via our website) will have the choice of opting into a Côte-run Prize Draw made before each of our concerts this season – **with the chance of winning one of five, complimentary, 3-course Prestige Set Menu pre-concert dinners for two people, including a Kir Royale or soft drink per guest and a concert programme.**

A Prize Draw will take place a few days before each of our three 2018-19 season concerts, based on everyone who bought tickets and opted-in by each draw date; with five lucky couples benefiting each time. The Prize Draw is open to WFCS chorus members as well as all other TicketSource ticket purchasers (and Patrons, arranged off-line). The opt-in box appears on-screen at the point of ticket purchase, along with full details and Terms & Conditions of the Prize Draw.

Côte Restaurants are inspired by the brasseries of Paris, offering relaxed all-day dining and serving authentic French classics made from quality, fresh ingredients. The Worcester restaurant (pictured right) is located in the High Street close to the Elgar statue, only a few steps away from the Cathedral (<https://www.cote.co.uk/brasserie/worcester/>).



Please spread the word about this brilliant opportunity. Good luck, and 'Bon Appétit' should you win!

THE PATRICIA THOMPSON LEGACY

Toby Hooper (T) reported in the Spring 2018 issue of the Choral Chronicle that the Committee had asked him to receive, collate and report to the Committee on suggestions from members as to how WFCS might best use Pat Thompson's legacy to achieve WFCS's core choral singing objects while recognising modern-day duties of public benefit in charity law. Several worthy suggestions were received.

The Committee has decided in the first instance to hold the legacy to invest in you, the members, by holding subscriptions, and at the same time carefully to evolve a programme of introducing state secondary school students to choral singing when this opportunity is not otherwise available to them. **Our Chairman Ben Cooper (B) will introduce this programme to members early in the Autumn term.**

In reaching its decisions the Committee noted the following:

- WFCS cannot make grants to other charities. The reason is that to do so involves extensive administrative work in persuading the Charity Commission to permit alienation of funds implicitly donated for our charitable objects. (The position would be different if we were a charity whose objects are grant-making, or if we were so large that we could reasonably absorb the administrative costs of Charity Commission compliance).
- Substantial one-off expenditure of any kind, however consistent with our core choral singing objects, would be a disproportionately high dissipation of funds better employed as an investment in members and to evolve a young people's outreach programme which would provide opportunities not otherwise available and which may represent its own investment in the WFCS membership of tomorrow.

The Chairman and Treasurer, and all the Committee, thank those who went to the trouble of making their suggestions to Toby Hooper within the time he stipulated, so that he could write a full report to the Committee and so that the Committee could engage in seemly deliberation accordingly.

Our Choral Chronicle tribute to Pat can be found on page 9.

GDPR – THE LAST WORD (hopefully)



I would like to assure you all that I believe that the trouble to which we put you in March to complete Data Consent forms was necessary. The same goes for the enormous amount of work which our Membership Secretary, Sally Rees, did on collating the replies.

I say this because shortly before the GDPR date (25 May 2018) the Government appeared to row back on requirements of strict compliance, presumably to appease exasperated small voluntary organisations.

A letter to the *Daily Telegraph* from the Secretary of a sailing club near Clacton may have led the line on this. It was in my opinion impermissible for us to invoke the so-called "compliance with a legal obligation" provision even to communicate with our members about core WFCS matters, let alone to communicate with our members about matters such as fundraising and non-WFCS events. And we had to adopt and publish a Data Policy.

Anyway, let's hope we've heard the last of it.

Toby Hooper (T)

THREE CHOIRS FESTIVAL HEREFORD

28 July - 4 August 2018

Geraint Bowen, the Organist and Director of Music at Hereford Cathedral, presented, as the Festival's Artistic Director, another hugely successful Three Choirs Festival, 28 July to 4 August.

Our own Peter Nardone conducted the concert titled Hymn of Praise on the Wednesday evening, featuring the Bruckner *Te Deum* and the Mendelssohn *Lobgesang*.

The *Daily Telegraph* commended the performance under Sir Andrew Davis of Elgar's rarely-performed *King Olaf*, describing the score as "vital and full of colourful detail".

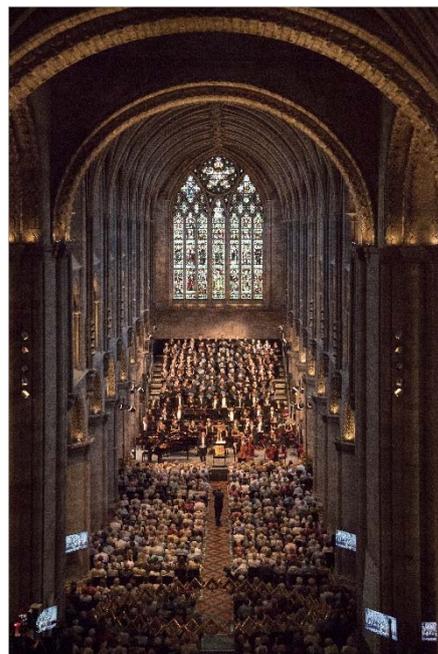
The *Guardian* observed that Ethel Smyth's also rarely performed "powerful, subversive" *Mass in D* "opened the Festival which is celebrating the work of female composers" and "Geraint Bowen's performance with the Festival Chorus and orchestra-in-residence, Philharmonia, honoured Smyth's intention of a glorious culminating finale, with its momentary references to Beethoven's Ninth and the joy of D major". (The perceived "subversion" lies in the placing of the Gloria at the end the work to achieve the finale described).

The WFCS contingent comprised:

- Soprano:** Joanna Clutterbuck, Anne Fardon, Karen Gorman, Claire Horacek, Satyam Makoieva, Alison Marlow, Catrin Meredith, Sue White, Michelle Whitefoot
Alto: Susie Arnold, Judy Baer, Lesley Bellerby, Julie Greenwood, Mary Kenchington, Katie Ridge.
Tenor: Edgar Green, Wynne Harries, Stuart Jones, Leon Joynes, David Norledge.
Bass: Philip Clennell, Ben Cooper, Nick Dunster, Mike Fardon, Stephen Greenwood

Our WFCS photographer, Michael Whitefoot, also acted as the Festival's official photographer

For an overview of next year's Gloucester 2019 programme, visit www.3choirs.org

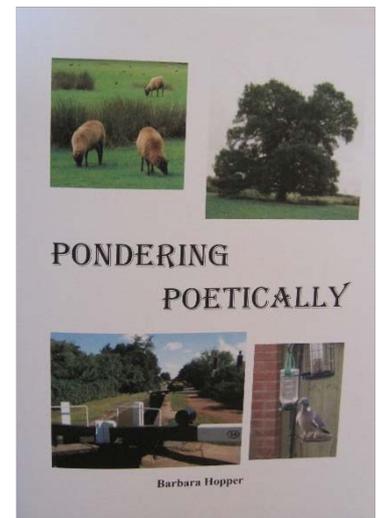


BARBARA HOPPER POETRY BOOK IN AID OF ST RICHARD'S

Barbara Hopper (A) has produced a booklet of poems to be sold in aid of St Richard's Hospice, and will bring some copies to rehearsals in case any chorus members would like one.

Barbara has produced the booklet to be sold in memory of her late husband, who was a part-time voluntary chaplain at St Richard's Hospice and a WFCS Patron. She will bring copies to rehearsals to offer for sale at £4.50 in aid of St Richard's.

Barbara writes: "It is called '*Pondering Poetically*' and has in it all sorts of poems, about singing in choirs, gardening, rambling, two ghost stories, heat waves, some historical, all sorts of things, mostly for fun, others serious. Some fit folk tunes as they have been used for historical presentations. Think Lewis Carroll or Flanders and Swann. I do not do blank verse. Also, I begin with a poem by my father and finish with one by my eldest brother (it runs in the family). The last one is poignant about our Great Uncle Fred who died in WW1, very topical. The rest are my own. I know that in these times people often carry no cash, so I hope you might be able to tell people in the *Choral Chronicle* about my little booklet, so that they bring some cash if they think they might like to buy one".



CHRISTMAS TREE AND MORE

Advance notice that WFCS has again booked to participate in this year's Worcester Cathedral's hugely popular, fund-raising Christmas Tree Festival in the Cloisters. Last year's WFCS tree, featuring decorations hand-made by chorus members, was a huge success, and lots of our bookmarks and concert flyers were picked up by visitors. Plans for this year's tree will be announced later this term.

The WFCS committee is also once again exploring the possibility of producing our own Christmas cards, 2019 calendar and possibly other branded items this season. Details to be confirmed.

BUYING ONLINE? USE OUR AMAZON LINK TO BENEFIT WFCS



This is not to advertise Amazon, but if you should choose to use Amazon when shopping online at any time (Christmas presents included!) please may we suggest

that you do so using our special WFCS link!

WFCS receives measurable financial benefit by this means, as Amazon donate 10% of the value of your purchase value to the Society, at no cost to you.

To shop on Amazon and donate to WFCS, copy this link

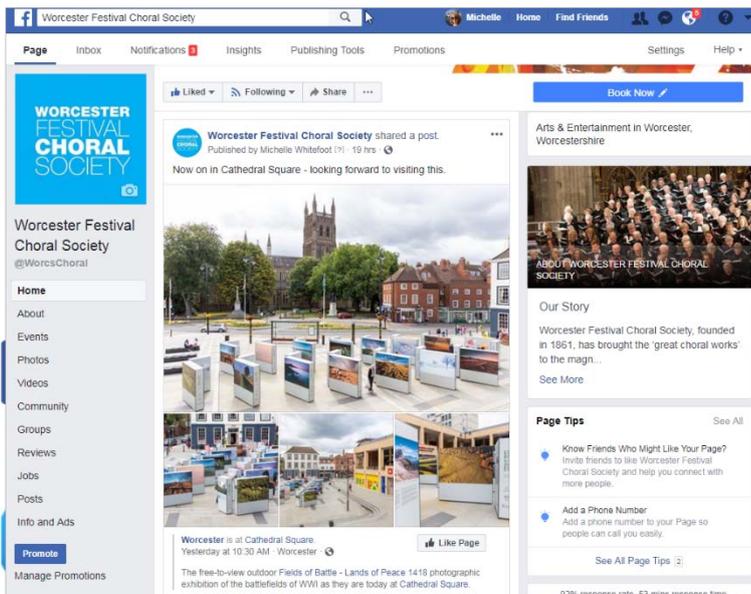
<https://amzn.to/2cRSuDN> or visit

<https://www.worcesterfestivalchoralsociety.org.uk/getting-involved>



HELP US SPREAD THE WORD via **FACEBOOK & TWITTER**

As mentioned in the last edition of Choral Chronicle, WFCS is active on both Facebook and Twitter, with the aim of sharing latest news and reaching new, bigger concert audiences. But we need YOU to help us spread the word even further!



Both of our feeds are packed with continually updated WFCS concert news PLUS local events, interesting ideas, fun updates, local news and much more, all year round. There is lots for you and you friends to enjoy.

So please help us to build our growing online community, and gather new audiences for the future, by Liking/Following us:

- 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.

... and don't forget about our WEBSITE!

As well as being the place to buy our concert tickets online, the WFCS website is continually updated with concert and event information, latest news releases, audience testimonials and chorus member dates, updates and information.

If there are ever any emergency messages (such as cancellations due to snow!) you'll also find them here, as well as on our Facebook page.

Please visit often – and mention it to your friends – to make the most of this great resource!

Visit <https://www.worcesterfestivalchoralsociety.org.uk/>



DR DONALD HUNT OBE

Photo: John Anyon / Newsquest



Donald Hunt died aged 88 in Worcester on Saturday 4 August, the day when the Brahms Requiem closed the Hereford Three Choirs Festival 2018. Amongst his many professional achievements, Donald was Master of Choristers and Organist at Worcester Cathedral – and Conductor of Worcester Festival Choral Society - from 1975 to 1996. He was a Vice-President of WFCS.

Born in Gloucester, he began his musical career as a Cathedral Chorister. He became indentured to Herbert Sumsion, then Organist. He became Assistant Organist there at the age of seventeen. Over the next seven years his initial contact with the Three Choirs Festival gave him both experience in choral and orchestral work

and contact with such composers as Finzi, Howells and Vaughan Williams. In 1954 Donald became an organist in Torquay and then became Director of Music at Leeds Parish Church, where he stayed for seventeen years. During that time he also taught at the Leeds College of Music, founded the Yorkshire Sinfonia Orchestra and was appointed Leeds' City Organist. He also expanded his experience of the choral society tradition and of conducting, becoming Conductor of the Halifax and Leeds Philharmonic Societies and Associate Conductor and Chorus Master of the Leeds Festival.

In 1975 Donald returned to Three Choirs country to become Organist and Master of the Choristers at Worcester Cathedral. The allied roles of Conductor of Worcester Festival Choral Society and Artistic Director of Worcester Three Choirs Festival enabled him to promote the music of his hero, Edward Elgar. He continued to champion Elgar's music well into his retirement; founding the Elgar Chorale choir in Worcester, acting as Artistic Director and Conductor of the 150th Elgar Anniversary celebration in Worcester in 2007, and through his close association with the Elgar Foundation. As Conductor of Worcester Festival Choral Society for more than 20 years, Donald's carefully-chosen programmes of traditional and new choral works (which included many Elgar performances and reflected his interest in French music), as well as numerous commercial recordings and special 'away' concert performances, saw the WFCS go from strength to strength. Of WFCS, Donald wrote in *A Prevailing Passion* (Mary Parsons/Osborne Heritage 1996): "Worcester Festival Choral Society is justly proud of its history. ...I have been privileged to be a small part of its history, and touched to have been the recipient of such generosity, friendship and musical satisfaction from the members: the 'joy of singing' is indeed a reality here. Bravo, Worcester Festival Choral Society! March on ... with pride, confidence, ambition and humility."

Donald attended the 150th Anniversary Dinner of WFCS at the Guildhall on 21 October 2011. The accompanying photograph shows Donald (right), with other former Worcester Cathedral Organists and WFCS Directors Sir David Willcocks (next to Donald), Christopher Robinson (left), and Adrian Lucas who was then in post. His honours included a Doctorate in Music from Leeds University, a Master of Arts degree from the University of Worcester and a Fellowship of the Royal School of Church Music. He was appointed OBE for services to British Music in the Queen's Birthday Honours List of 1993. In retirement he continued his musical involvement, and enjoyed musical research and writing as well as being interested in gardening and poetry. **The drive, talent and inspiration of Donald Hunt have undoubtedly made a huge contribution to building the thriving classical music tradition that Worcestershire still enjoys today.**



PATRICIA (PAT) THOMPSON

Pat Thompson, a former WFCS member, died on 7 December 2014. In 2017 WFCS received news of her death with the news that she had left a substantial legacy to WFCS.

This tribute is based on information gathered by present or former WFCS members Dorothy Fearnough, Joan Willis, Sandra Lanigan, Pam Schermuly, Sue Spackman and Margaret Roy. Our Treasurer David Norledge supplied the information about Pat's final whereabouts and date of death from information he received when informed of the legacy. The Editor researched Pat's involvement in Three Choirs.

Pat was an American who came to live in Malvern, probably in Barnard's Green. It is understood that she was an Art Therapist. She was a singer and joined WFCS as an Alto. Being part of the choir meant a lot to Pat, who was a very friendly person. She helped to sell raffle tickets and raise funds for the society. It was her great ambition to sing in the Three Choirs Festival. She became one of the choir stewards, keeping the attendance record.

Pat also took singing lessons to increase her chance of singing in the Festival. She achieved this at the Hereford Festival in 1991, at Worcester in 2002, at Hereford in 2003 and at Gloucester in 2004.

Pat's friends lost touch with her after she left the choir until 2006 when Pam Schermuly (a WFCS alto) visited her neighbour in Hastings Care Home, Barnards Green, and found Pat there, suffering from dementia. Joan Willis and Sandra Lanigan (WFCS altos) visited Pat there and they were registered as contacts for Pat. Sue Spackman (WFCS alto) was also one of Pat's visitors.

Pat's 70th birthday was on 9 March 2007 and Joan and Sandra arranged a celebration party at The Green Dragon on Guarlford Road for several of Pat's friends, including Marjorie Potts, and took them both there. The accompanying photograph was taken on that occasion.



Some time after this Pat was moved from Hastings Care Home and none of her friends could find out where she was. They assumed that Pat's niece had taken her back to America. It was only when Pat's legacy to WFCS was announced that it was discovered that Pat had been taken to the Lickey Hills Nursing Home (specialist in dementia care), Barnt Green, Bromsgrove. Pat died there on 7 December 2014.

The Three Choirs Festivals in which Pat sang represent interesting aspects of Three Choirs history. Roy Massey directed the 1991 Festival in Hereford. He was then the Hereford Cathedral Organist. The co-directors were John Sanders, then at Gloucester, and Donald Hunt, then at Worcester. Pat sang Alto 1. Donald Hunt's wife Josephine Hunt sang Soprano 2. At the opening concert the Festival Chorus sang the Beethoven *Missa Solemnis* with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra. Other notable works performed during that Festival were the Vaughan Williams *Sea Symphony* which Donald Hunt conducted with the Liverpool, and the Poulenc *Gloria* which John Sanders conducted with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. WFCS are performing this on 17 November 2018. *The Sea Symphony* will be performed at Gloucester Three Choirs 2019.

Adrian Lucas directed the 2002 Festival at Worcester. Again, Pat sang Alto 1. The Festival Chorus and the Philharmonia performed the *Dream of Gerontius* as the opening concert. The closing concert featured the Festival Chorus with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra in the Walton *Coronation Te Deum* and the Elgar *Coronation Ode*. Geraint Bowen directed the 2003 Hereford Festival and Andrew Netsingha directed the 2004 Gloucester Festival. Pat sang Alto 1 in each.

We understand that Pat loved *Gerontius* particularly. So that opening concert at Worcester on 17 August 2002, where she sang *Gerontius* with Adrian Lucas and the Philharmonia, must have been a special occasion for her which we can cherish in her memory.

MICHAEL WILSON AND MUSIC

Michael (Mike) and Gail Wilson joined WFCS in 1971, Mike as a Bass, Gail as an Alto. Mike died suddenly on 13 December 2018. The Editor asked Gail to contribute the following in his memory.

Ours was a courtship of concerts. First was Dietrich Fisher Dieskau singing *Goethelieder* and then Elisabeth Schwarzkopf clutching an enormous wad of Kleenex (“I must honour my public”).

Best of all we heard Artur Rubinstein playing Chopin, the stage strewn with red carnations, and Jacqueline Du Pré and Daniel Barenboim in the row behind us.

Then there were conductors, flamboyant Von Karajan, Klemperer, carried on in a sort of sedan chair and conducting with his index finger and our favourite, Haitinck.

We went to the Easter Bach passions, spotting the Duchess of Kent in the chorus with her two burly tenor bodyguards in close proximity. Mike discovered ballet, The Bolshoi, The Kirov, The Royal Ballet.

We joined WFCS together in 1971 with Christopher Robinson and experienced his “lady in the dirty blouse” comment, which, incidentally, we were treated to again when he was at St. John’s Cambridge.

We had a lengthy pause to bring up children during the Donald Hunt years, but rejoined under Adrian Lucas, and remained ever since.

Mike’s first love was piano, starting at the age of eight and never ceasing to have lessons from then until his death, often travelling a distance to study with a good teacher. He practised every day.

His belief was that no piece ever revealed everything, there was always something new to learn and discover, and that there was no such thing as “good enough”.

The love of music has carried. One of our daughters is a member of the York Chapter House Choir, one is appearing in *Lohengrin* at Covent Garden at the time of writing in March 2018, and grandson Thomas will be starting as a chorister at New College, Oxford in September.

Gail Wilson (A)

The Editor pays tribute to Mike’s contribution to WFCS over these many years as Gail continues to make her own contribution among our altos.

We understand that the Poulenc Gloria, which we shall be performing in our Autumn Concert, was a particular favourite of Mike’s.





NON-WFCS EVENTS FOR YOUR POTENTIAL INTEREST

Saturday 8 September: 5.30 PM: Worcester Cathedral: Sung Eucharist with Installation of Nicholas Freestone as Assistant Director of Music and Choir Reunion.

Friday 14 September: 7:30 PM: Worcester Cathedral: The Band of the Grenadier Guards in Concert: Tickets – Worcester Live Box Office, Huntingdon Hall.

Friday 14 and Saturday 15 September: 7:15 PM (Saturday matinee 2:15 PM): Swan Theatre, Worcester: Friends of the Swan Theatre 2018 Gala Show: Tickets – Worcester Live Box Office, Huntingdon Hall. Gabrielle Bullock (A) is appearing.

Sunday 16 September: 3.00 PM: Gloucester Cathedral: Memorial Evensong for Dr Donald Hunt OBE

Thursday 27 September: 7:30 PM: Huntingdon Hall, Worcester: Frith Piano Quartet with John Tattersdill (Double Base): Programme includes Mozart *Piano Quartet in G minor K478* and Schubert *Trout Quintet*. Tickets – Worcester Live Box Office, Huntingdon Hall.

Saturday 29 September: 7:30 PM: Cadogan Hall, London SW1: Mandarin Voices Choir: A concert of Chinese music sung in Mandarin: Opportunity to participate: www.cadoganhall.com. Bishop John's wife, HJ, is involved in the organisation of this event.

Saturday 6 October: Gloucester Three Choirs Festival 2019 Fundraising Event: Come & Sing *Verdi Requiem*: St John's, Smith Square, London SW1: Come & Sing 1.00 PM: Performance 7.00 PM :Tickets – www.3choirs.org

Saturday 6 October: 6:45 PM: Worcester Cathedral: Organ Recital to mark the 10th Anniversary of the "new" Cathedral Organ: David Briggs: Tickets – www.ticketsource.co.uk

Saturday 6 October: Gloucester Three Choirs Festival 2019 Fundraising Event: 7.30 PM: Octavo, close harmony vocal repertoire in the newly restored Lady Chapel of Gloucester Cathedral: Tickets - www.3choirs.org

Sunday 7 October: 3 PM: Huntingdon Hall, Worcester: Lest We Forget: A commemorative concert to mark the Centenary of the end of the First World War: James Gilchrist (tenor), Benjamin Frith (piano), Richard Jenkinson (cello): Tickets – Worcester Live Box Office, Huntingdon Hall.

Sunday 14 October: 3 PM: Huntingdon Hall, Worcester: Laura Snowden: Classical guitarist and composer, the first guitar graduate of the Yehudi Menuhin School, where guitar tuition was made possible by a donation by the Rolling Stones: Tickets – Worcester Live Box Office, Huntingdon Hall.

Tuesday 16 to Saturday 20 October: 7:30 PM (Matinees Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 1:45 PM): The Quire, Worcester Cathedral: Worcester Repertory Company present *Twelfth Night* by William Shakespeare (in Worcester Rep's annual Shakespeare at the Cathedral series): Tickets – Worcester Live Box Office, Huntingdon Hall.

Saturday 10 November: 7:30 PM: Worcester Cathedral Chamber Choir: St Martin's London Road: Faure *Requiem* and Bainton *And I Saw A New Heaven*: Organ, Christopher Allsop: Reader, Gabrielle Bullock: Tickets - www.worcestercathedralchamberchoir.co.uk

Saturday 10 November: 7:30 PM: Worcester Cathedral: Concert: Voices of Remembrance: Worcestershire Symphony Orchestra, Worcester Cathedral Choir, with a children's choir from the seven schools of the Rivers CofE Multi-Academy Trust, and guest narrators: Tickets – Worcester Live Box Office, Huntingdon Hall.

Sunday 18 November: 3 PM: Huntingdon Hall, Worcester: English String Orchestra (Zoe Beyers, director and violin soloist): Finzi, Dvorak, Bartok and Vivaldi *The Four Seasons*: Tickets – Worcester Live Box Office, Huntingdon Hall.

Tuesday 27 November: 7:30 PM: Great Malvern Priory: English Touring Opera: *St Matthew Passion*: Some members of WFCS are taking part:

https://www.experiencetickets.co.uk/project/bach-st-matthew-passion-at-malvern/?spektrix_bounce=true or contact WFCS member Willi Jaundrill (B)

William.jaundrill@btinternet.com

Saturday 19 January 2019: 12 noon: Worcester Cathedral: Service of Thanksgiving for Dr Donald Hunt OBE.

Saturday 26 January 2019: 4 PM: Worcester Cathedral: Evensong: Worcester Cathedral Chamber Choir open their 20th Anniversary Year

Wednesday 5 June to Saturday 3 August 2019: Longborough Festival Opera presenting Wagner's *Das Rheingold*, Donizetti's *Anna Bolena*, Mozart's *Don Giovanni* and Cavalli's *La Callisto*: Longborough, near Moreton-in-Marsh: www.lfo.org.uk

Friday 26 July to Saturday 3 August 2019: Gloucester Three Choirs Festival: www.3choirs.org

Programme includes:

- **Friday 26 July:** Choir of Merton College, Oxford: James Macmillan's *Seven Last Words from the Cross* in Tewkesbury Abbey
- **Saturday 27 July:** Berlioz's *The Damnation of Faust*
- **Sunday 28 July:** Verdi *Requiem*
- **Wednesday 31 July:** The UK premiere of Mendelssohn's arrangement of Handel's *Israel in Egypt*
- **Thursday 1 August (Afternoon):** The Three Cathedral Choirs perform Britten's *Ceremony of Carols* and premiere Bob Chilcott's *A Christmas Oratorio*, with Sarah Connolly, Nick Pritchard and Neal Davies
- **Friday 2 August:** Vaughan Williams' *A Sea Symphony* and Stanford's *Songs of the Fleet* with Roderick Williams and Katherine Broderick
- **Saturday 3 August:** Beethoven *Symphony No 9*

WFCS DIARY DATES 2018-19

First rehearsal of 2018 – 19 season Monday 10 September 2018

AGM (in second half of rehearsal) Monday 24 September

Rehearsal at St Andrew's, Pump Street Monday 15 October 2018

Autumn half-term break (no rehearsal) Monday 29 October 2018

Rehearsal at St Andrew's, Pump Street Monday 5 November 2018

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

Saturday 17 November 2018
Rehearsal 2 PM / Concert 7:30 PM

Rehearsal at St Andrew's, Pump Street Monday 3 December 2018

Winter Concert – Handel's Messiah

Saturday 8 December 2018
Rehearsal 2 PM / Concert 7:30 PM

ONLY IF NEEDED: Rehearsal at
St Andrew's, Pump Street Monday 10 December 2018

First rehearsal of Spring term 2019 Monday 7 January 2019

Spring half-term break (no rehearsal) Monday 18 February 2019

Spring Concert – Mendelssohn's Elijah

Saturday 23 March 2019
Rehearsal 2 PM: Concert 7:30 PM

Quiz Night (Powick Village Hall) Friday 8 March 2019? (TBC)

End of Term Supper (Details TBA) Monday 25 March 2019

Come & Sing – Beethoven Mass in C Saturday 6 April 2019

Note on rehearsals at St Andrew's, Pump Street:

We rehearse at St Andrew's when the Cathedral cannot accommodate us (eg special services). The Church is on the second floor of the building (lift available). Please listen out at rehearsal or keep an eye on the website for other St Andrew's dates which may be necessary. They will be posted on the website with good notice.

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Keep your eye on www.worcesterfestivalchoralsociety.org.uk for updates and member information all year round – and help promote our concerts on Social Media:



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