



## FRIENDS NEWS

Issue 14 October 2021



### FROM THE CO- CHAIRS

Dear Friends

It is a great joy for us to be singing together again. We had all of us underestimated the loss of collective musical endeavour.

The excitement is elevated by the appointment of our new Musical Director, David Lawrence, who comes to us with an impressive background and an enthusiasm to deliver. Welcome David, on behalf of the Society and Friends. We look forward to happy times together.

David's first twelve months with us will not be typical of what we hope will be a long term relationship with HCS. Our President Brian Kay will be conducting our Messiah concert this year, and Andrew Padmore will be returning to lead us in our March concert.

David himself has other commitments to meet in the near future but will be able thenceforth to spend much more time with us. We are entering a new era in the long history of the Society. There are many memorable concerts to come.

We have taken in a high number of new singers, some 14 or so, with more waiting in the wings to join us after the Brahms concert. We welcome them all and are delighted that they have chosen our choir.

Best Wishes  
Amy and Paul



### SUBSCRIPTIONS

Just a reminder that as HCS has started up again Friends subscriptions are now due for the 2021-22 season. They remain the same at £15 for an individual or £20 joint (with partner).

You can send them directly by cheque to Friends Secretary Carolyn, or (if at all possible) please could you pay online to Barclays account "The Harrogate Choral Society", sort code 20-48-42, account number 60317195. Please use a reference, for example: FRIENDSUB – JBloggs. In other word please add your name (or as much as will fit) after FRIENDSUB so we can clearly identify you on the bank statement.

Please also send an email to [treasurer@harrogatechoral.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@harrogatechoral.org.uk) and to the Friends secretary [friends@harrogatechoral.org.uk](mailto:friends@harrogatechoral.org.uk) confirming your payment.

## COMMITTEE REPORT

The following is a summary of items discussed by the Executive and full Committee since the last newsletter in February 2021. We have continued to meet online online by Zoom – except for the August 2021 Exec meeting! As always if there is anything you think we should be discussing at a future meeting please let Ruth know.

### **Admin matters**

Even though we have not been rehearsing work has carried on behind the scenes and all relevant policies have been kept up to date as per our Action plan. In particular the Health and Safety Policy, Contingency Plan and Risk Management Policy have had various areas revised as a result of the Covid pandemic

### **Membership Matters**

We were delighted that so many people carried on making enquiries about joining HCS during lockdown. By the time we restarted rehearsals in September 2021 a few were not able to join us as their lives had changed but we still had 17 people came to our first few rehearsals and 12 of them have already passed their voice tests and been accepted as Members. We have temporarily frozen inviting potential new members to rehearsals until after the November concert as we have to make sure we have enough physical space to allow everyone to rehearse safely but still maintain some social distancing.

### **New Music Director**

Since the last newsletter the Trustees have been advertised for the new Music Director, received nine applications, shortlisted candidates for interview and from them invited two candidates to take a rehearsal each – in effect having an audition with the choir! The audition rehearsals were made more complicated by the fact that we were still rehearsing in shifts so they had half the choir for an hour, then the other half. Both were extremely good and well received by the choir but after taking everything into consideration David Lawrence was appointed and will be conducting the first concert of the season.

### **Future Concerts**

After a long absence we are finally able to announce concerts would take place again. The Committee decided that the first concert of the season would be that originally planned for Autumn 2020 – ie Brahms Requiem, it was also decided to use the two piano accompaniment. This allowed the concert to include Elgar's Enigma Variations arranged for two pianos which should attract a wide range of people. Two other choral works by Elgar are included to fill the programme out. It was agreed that - as he had not been to conduct us for some time - we would ask our President Brian Kay to conduct Messiah on 11<sup>th</sup> December with the Manchester Camerata and we were delighted that he accepted. We also invited Andrew Padmore to return as guest conductor for the Rossini and Puccini concert in March 2022 as he had prepared us so well for the concert when it was originally planned for 2020 but had to be cancelled at such short notice. The final concert of the season is currently planned for 11 June 2022 but it will be up to our new Music Director to determine what we perform. This will be followed by the Harrogate Prom on 25 June 2022 which has also been postponed from 2020. The Committee decided that we should experiment with a slightly earlier start to our Saturday evening concerts, 7.00pm.

### **Rehearsal Planning**

During the year the possibility of outdoor rehearsals was contemplated but ultimately it was decided they would just not be practicable. During the summer of 2021 as things improved the Committee took on board the guidance from Making Music on returning to rehearsals and for the first few weeks we sang in shifts with the chairs well spaced out. We have completed full Covid risk assessments for rehearsals and concerts and for the latter will be following the government guidance in force at the time in respect of audience seating, etc. We continue to rehearse with fewer people present than normal as a number of members has chosen not to return just yet. We have also purchased an air quality monitoring device and see through plastic screens which are placed in front of the piano and conductor.

## INTRODUCING DAVID LAWRENCE



David Lawrence is one of the UK's most versatile conductors, working with orchestras, symphony choruses and national youth choirs. He was recently nominated for a Gramophone Award for his conducting, has recently been awarded a prestigious ARAM by the Royal Academy of Music, and holds the Guinness World Record for conducting the UK's largest choir.

David's work has taken him to Singapore, Colombia, Canada, the United States, India, the United Arab Emirates, throughout Europe, and Australia. His positive and engaging manner makes him a popular guest conductor, and he is an experienced and respected trainer of choral conductors. With particular experience in the field of contemporary music, David has prepared and conducted première performances by Per

Nørgård, Pierre Boulez, Iannis Xenakis, Mauricio Kagel, Graham Fitkin, James Wood, Bob Chilcott and others. As a guest chorusmaster of the Netherlands Radio Choir he has worked with many conductors such as Kenneth Montgomery, Frans Brüggen, and John Adams, and in 2002 working closely with Stockhausen he also conducted this exceptional choir in the German première of Scene II from his opera *Sontag aus Licht*.

David has conducted the London Philharmonic Choir, Hallé Choir, London Symphony Chorus, the CBSO Chorus for whom he is an Associate Conductor, and the national youth choirs of Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales. He has directed large scale education projects with the Orchestra of Welsh National Opera, the English Symphony Orchestra, the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra and of course the CBSO. In 2011 David conducted an award winning performance of Beethoven's 9th Symphony with the Barrier Reef Orchestra in Queensland, and has conducted the CBSO in a massed performance of Carmina Burana, the Orchestra of Opera North with their Inspiration Choir, Vaughan William's Sea Symphony for Hull's City of Culture Festival and the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra and Huddersfield Choral Society for the BBC's Songs of Praise.

David is Choral Advisor to Sinfonia Viva with whom he has worked closely since 1998. He is the conductor of the London Symphony Orchestra's Community Choir and Senior Youth Choir, and as Principal Conductor of Young Voices, a position he has held for 20 years, directs massed choirs in an annual series of concerts with some choirs incorporating more than 8,000 singers!

### **HCS President Brian Kay writes:**

As President of the Harrogate Choral Society I am delighted to hear of the appointment of David Lawrence as conductor, following fifteen years under the leadership of Andrew Padmore. David arrives as we all emerge from the many difficult months of pandemic which have made it impossible for choirs to sing and orchestras to play and he will no doubt apply his inspirational skills to the rebuilding of the voices, the confidence and the joy of those whose good fortune it is to sing in the choir. I wish him well as he takes the Choral Society into the next stage of its distinguished musical journey.

## UPCOMING CONCERTS

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> November**  
**Royal Hall at 7 pm**

**Brahms - Ein Deutsches Requiem**  
**Elgar – Enigma Variations (arranged for two pianos)**  
**Elgar – Give unto the Lord**  
**Elgar – Ave Verum**

For this concert we will be accompanied throughout by two pianos played by our Accompanist and Deputy Music Director Tom Moore and his brother Stephen who is Head of Music at Llandaff Cathedral. The soloists for the Brahms are Laurie Ashworth and Adam Green, and the whole concert will be conducted by our new Music Director - David Lawrence! Tickets are just £10 so please get yours soon before they all go!

**HARROGATE CHORAL SOCIETY**  
with Thomas Moore & Stephen Moore Piano  
Laurie Ashworth Soprano, Adam Green Baritone  
Conducted by David Lawrence

**Brahms**  
Ein Deutsches Requiem

**Elgar**  
Enigma Variations (arranged for two pianos)  
Ave Verum  
Give unto the Lord

**Royal Hall, Harrogate**  
**13 November 2021, 7pm**

**Tickets £10**  
Students, under 16s or IBA £5  
on sale from Harrogate Box Office 01423 502116  
or online at [www.harrogatetheatre.co.uk](http://www.harrogatetheatre.co.uk)

www.harrogatechoral.org.uk | Registered Charity 1164776 | Twitter.com/HgateChoralSoc

**HARROGATE CHORAL SOCIETY**

**MESSIAH**  
J F Handel

with  
**Manchester Camerata**  
Sarah Fox, Soprano Angharad Lyddon, Mezzo  
James Micklethwaite, Tenor Jerome Knox, Bass  
Brian Kay, Guest Conductor

**Royal Hall, Harrogate**  
**11 December 2021, 7 pm**

**Tickets £25**  
Students, under 16s or IBA £5  
from Harrogate Box Office 01423 502116  
or online at [www.harrogatetheatre.co.uk](http://www.harrogatetheatre.co.uk)

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**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> December**  
**Royal Hall at 7 pm**

**Handel – Messiah**

**With Manchester Camerata**  
**Sarah Fox, Soprano**  
**Angharad Lyddon, Mezzo**  
**James Micklethwaite, Tenor**  
**Jerome Knox, Bass**  
**Conducted by the President of HCS Brian Kay**

Messiah finally returns to Harrogate - our last performance in the Royal Hall was in 2018 as we took the 2019 concert to Tennants of Leyburn. Tickets are £25 and the best seats will be selling fast

Tickets for both concerts are on sale from the Harrogate Box Office at [www.harrogatetheatre.co.uk](http://www.harrogatetheatre.co.uk) or by phone 01423 502116

**Future Dates:** 19 March 2022  
11 June 2022  
25 June 2022

Rossini – Stabat Mater and Puccini – Messa di Gloria  
tbc  
The Harrogate Prom

### This Newsletter

Apologies that it has been a while since the last edition. The plan going forward is to send this out three times a year – and Autumn edition in October, Winter edition in January/February and a Spring/Summer edition in May. If there is more you would like to read in this newsletter, or if you have a contribution then do let us know by getting in touch with Carolyn, the Friends Secretary – email [friends@harrogatechoral.org.uk](mailto:friends@harrogatechoral.org.uk)