



## FRIENDS OF ROCHESTER CHORAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER ... 28<sup>th</sup> January 2011

*Dear Friend*

I had considered sending Newsletters out by e-mail but that wouldn't suit everybody and it would be harder to include advance copies of the next concert flyer, so I'm sticking to the post. A crossword clue recently described a postal vote as "a cross the postman has to bear" but I don't think this correspondence will be any great burden for Postman Pat.

We all enjoyed the Christmas Concert at St Margaret's, on 11<sup>th</sup> December, when the pupils from St Margaret's Primary School, Troy Town, charmed everyone with their singing and we and the audience sang with a real spirit of Christmas to come. We performed another new work by Gavin Williams: *Benedicamus Domino* which we thought excellent. It was the second of his works to have its first performance by us at Christmas. Some Friends will remember compositions for the RCS by Robert Ashfield and Barry Ferguson and it's good to know the tradition is maintained.

On the back of this letter, I've printed the forthcoming attractions up to summer 2012, just as a reminder. I've also included information about our "Come and Sing" in March, even though it wouldn't normally concern the Friends as such. Those of us who are also members will know about it of course but the doors are open to anyone who'd like to take part or, of course, to come and listen.

The next big event, on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> April, is the Bach B Minor Mass, a magnificent work that calls for a great deal of concentration to perform it well. Fortunately, we have Gavin Williams to guide us through the music and Roger Sayer to add magic to the choir's singing and the orchestra's playing. On this occasion, the RCS is being augmented by 20 or so singers from the Vocalensemble Ars Nova of Hamburg. This is a group of professional people who sing as amateurs. They give concerts throughout Germany, even as far away as Berlin, under their Director, Volkmar Zehner. The next day they will give a concert of their own in the Cathedral. I will be looking out for details but I note that Roger is giving an organ recital that day.

I think that's all the news for now. Please note the dates in your diary and, if you aren't doing it already, please pass the enclosed flyers to another music lover.

With thanks and warm good wishes

*Yours sincerely*

*Malcolm*

# Rochester Choral Society: forthcoming attractions

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**Saturday 5th March 2011**

**"Come and Sing" at St. Matthew's Church, Wigmore**

*Doors open at 2.30 pm; rehearsal 3 - 6.30 pm; performance 7.30 pm*

**Parry: Blest Pair of Sirens (8-part choral ed. - Novello)**

**Stainer: The Crucifixion (Novello ed.)**

*Peter Jones, Tenor; Chris Munday, Bass; Dan Soper, Organ*

*Directed by Gavin Williams*

**Tickets: £10 (singers), plus £1 per score that you hire,**

**£5 (audience tickets), accompanying children free.**

*Any queries, please contact Ann Livings - email: [aap@livings.eclipse.co.uk](mailto:aap@livings.eclipse.co.uk) -*

*or telephone: 01634 379139 or 07833 103847.*

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**Saturday 9th April 2011, 7 pm**

**Bach B Minor Mass in Rochester Cathedral: *please see the enclosed flyer***

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**Saturday 11th June 2011, 7 pm**

**Purcell: Te Deum and Jubilate in D**

*Organ solo (to be confirmed)*

**Rossini: Petite Messe Solenne**

*Conducted by Roger Sayer*

*Rochester Cathedral*

**Tickets: £15 (front of nave), £13 (middle of nave), £11 (rear of nave), £7 (unreserved - mostly in aisles), £3 (for children and students in full-time education - any seat). RCS Friends save £5 off the front-nave seats and £3 off any other.**

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**Saturday 5th November 2011, 7 pm**

**Haydn: The Creation**

*Conducted by Roger Sayer*

*Rochester Cathedral*

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**March / April 2012 - date to be confirmed**

**Stainer: The Crucifixion**

*Conducted by Roger Sayer*

*Rochester Cathedral*

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**June / July 2012 - date to be confirmed**

**Mendelssohn: Elijah**

*Conducted by Roger Sayer*

*Rochester Cathedral*

**For concert tickets, please contact The Box Office:**

E-tickets: [tickets@rochesterchoral.co.uk](mailto:tickets@rochesterchoral.co.uk)

Telephone: 01 634 401049