



FRIENDS OF ROCHESTER CHORAL SOCIETY **NEWSLETTER NUMBER 16 ... 19th June 2013**

Dear Friend

Time has simply flown by and it's a full six months since the last newsletter. Please accept my apologies and thanks for your continuing interest and support.

The RCS Committee (of which I'm not a member) has been dealing with the departure next spring of Roger Sayer, who will have completed 20 years as conductor and Director of Music. I understand that Roger remains Cathedral Organist and has thus continued to associate the RCS with the excellence of cathedral music, which began with our foundation in 1873 by the Cathedral's Precentor.

That tradition is to continue when the Cathedral's present Director of Music, Scott Farrell, takes up the post next summer. This has the support of The Dean, who is our President and Scott has already been taking rehearsals in Roger's absence. In this he is ably supported by Gavin Williams who continues as Assistant Director of Music and Chorus Master. I think we are very lucky to be led by such outstanding musicians.

Overleaf, you will notice a number of departures from previously-published programmes. As well as celebrating Verdi's bicentenary, we are also marking Britten's centenary with a performance of his charming and popular work "Rejoice in the Lamb". But, especially, you will notice two successive concerts in the St George's Centre, a break from tradition which is not to become the norm. For the Verdi, we are being given the venue in return for our support for the Council's bid to encourage excellence in choral music in Medway. In the case of the Autumn concert, we simply couldn't find a free Saturday in the Cathedral, despite all our Committee's efforts.

I mention this because we need to encourage our audience to attend when we aren't in the Cathedral. On July 6, our guests will include the new Mayor of Medway, Mrs Josie Iles and her Consort, Mr Steve Iles and we won't want a poor attendance.

So would you please do all you can to encourage as many people as possible to support these concerts. This might include, for example, offering help with transport.

I enclose (or attach) an easily-reproduced version of the concert flyer, with a map printed on the back, to help you to do this. Your action will be that of a friend indeed!

With thanks and all good wishes

Yours sincerely

Malcolm

Upcoming concerts

Verdi Requiem (with guest singers)

Saturday 6th July 2013, 7 pm

As part of Medway Council's promotion of music in 2013, Rochester Choral Society is performing the **Verdi Requiem** and choral singers are warmly invited to join us.

Christine Teare, Soprano
Tania Williams, Mezzo Soprano
Richard Monk, Tenor
David Gwesyn Smith, Bass
Charles Andrews, Organ

Directed by Roger Sayer

St. George's Centre, Chatham Maritime

Tickets:

Singers - £15. Please fill in the form above.

Audience - £12. Buy your audience tickets [online!](http://tickets@rochesterchoral.co.uk)

School children and students in full-time education - £5

Please contact Rosemary Clemence - email: tickets@rochesterchoral.co.uk or telephone: 01634 401049 - for any queries regarding tickets.

Autumn Concert 2013

Saturday 9th November 2013, 7 pm

Elgar: From Bavarian Highlands

Finzi: Five Bagatelles for Clarinet

Britten: Rejoice in the Lamb

Dove: The Passing of the Year

Dawson (arr.): Three Spirituals (Soon ah will be done; Every time I feel the spirit;

King Jesus is a listening)

Chilcott (arr.): Skye Boat Song

Conducted by Roger Sayer

St. George's Centre, Chatham Maritime

Spring Concert 2014

Saturday 29th March 2014, 7 pm

Brahms: Nänie

Elgar: Sea Pictures

Vaughan Williams: A Sea Symphony

With the Rochester Sinfonietta

Conducted by Roger Sayer

Rochester Cathedral

Tickets: £18 (front of nave), £14 (rear of nave), £7 (unreserved - mostly in aisles), £3 (for school children and students in full-time education - any seat). RCS Friends save £5 off the front-nave seats and £3 off any other.

Summer 2014 - date to be confirmed

Handel: Israel in Egypt

With the Rochester Sinfonietta

Conducted by Scott Farrell

Rochester Cathedral