



FRIENDS OF ROCHESTER CHORAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER NUMBER 20

13 February 2015



Dear Friend

I would first like to welcome, on your behalf, our two most recently-joined members. Valerie Cheers became a Life Friend last October and Betty Baker has joined as an Annual Friend, having completed a record 70 years as an RCS singer. We will all wish them both many more happy years, as RCS Friends.

I'm sad to report the passing of Michael Lewis and John Bradley, Life Friends of long standing, who will be much missed.



Good reports have been received about last November's performance of the *Brahms Requiem*. Attendance at the St George's Centre was good, as the picture shows. With last summer's performance of *Israel in Egypt*, in the Cathedral, it marked another feather in Scott Farrell's cap. No doubt future programmes will be both challenging and enjoyable, the hallmarks of a progressive Society under inspired direction.



Another development has been the formation of an RCS Chamber Choir, which earns revenue by giving recitals and helps to raise the Society's profile. The Choir was very busy over Christmas and the picture shows the members singing at the Grove Residential Home, Maidstone, under their conductor, Peter Ashley, who is also an RCS singer.

The RCS Chairman, Kendall Harding, is working hard to establish the Society's reputation locally and has established a working relationship with Medway Council. (Newsletters 13 and 14 also refer).

Our next concert, in the Cathedral, comprises Bob Chilcott's brilliant *Salisbury Vespers* and Vierne's massive *Messe Solennelle*, a treat for lovers of choral and organ music. I very much hope to see you there, with as many others as you can persuade. I attach (or include) a flyer which I hope will help. Would you please note the special ticket arrangements (details on next page) and let me know if they pose you any problems.

Yours sincerely,

Malcolm

Malcolm Moulton, Friends' Secretary

Upcoming concerts, are published by our Webmaster, Mary Burslem. I have added the following, for the information of the Friends:

PLEASE NOTE THAT, until further notice, centre nave tickets will be all at one price: £15 for non –members and £10 for Friends. This means a further reduction from the price of £13 that you have previously been paying. It will be necessary, however, to arrive in time to secure the seat you'd like. Season ticket holders will, of course, still be able to have the seats already allocated to them.

These arrangements are to help RCS members (and Friends) in selling tickets themselves, so as to swell our audience numbers. A similar arrangement has been used at the St George's Centre and will be reviewed.

Thank you for your understanding.

Vierne and Chilcott Concert

Saturday 21st March 2015, 7 pm

Vierne: Messe Solennelle (brass and organ version)

Chilcott: Salisbury Vespers

Conducted by Scott Farrell

Rochester Cathedral

Tickets: £15 (Nave), £7 (unreserved - mostly in aisles), £5 (for school children and students in full-time education - any seat). RCS Friends save £5 off the nave seats and £3 off the unreserved seats.

Buy your tickets online!

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

Bach and Haydn Concert

Saturday 27th June 2015, 7 pm

Bach: Magnificat

Haydn: Nelson Mass

Conducted by Scott Farrell With the Rochester Sinfonietta

Rochester Cathedral

Tickets: £15 (Nave), £7 (unreserved - mostly in aisles), £5 (for school children and students in full-time education - any seat). RCS Friends save £5 off the nave seats and £3 off the unreserved seats.

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

Autumn 2015

Date and venue to be arranged

Rutter: Requiem

Pärt: Summa

Janáček: Otče Náš

Bernstein: Chichester Psalms

Conducted by Scott Farrell