



**FRIENDS OF ROCHESTER
CHORAL SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER NUMBER 28**

18th February 2017



Dear Friend

Thanks are due to all Friends who have renewed their subscriptions. Such support is important in maintaining the Society as a first-class organisation in which a broad cross-section of singers can participate together and deliver a standard of music that will inspire members, Friends and audiences alike. That sounds easy if you say it quickly but it takes a lot of imagination, skill and hard work from our Director of Music and each section of the choir to bring it about.

Our next concert has exceptional music for Passiontide, comprising beautiful motets by Brahms and Bruckner and our first performance of Bob Chilcott's St John Passion. First performed in Wells Cathedral in 2013, it is a fine example of music of our time which is a delight to hear and to perform. We are really proud to add Bob Chilcott to the list of composers whose work the RCS has performed during the composer's lifetime.

Apart from their profound spirituality, these works have one other thing in common:- memorable, and singable tunes!

We do urge you to support this concert and show your friends and family just how very pleasant this music is, while still conveying the reverence due to the subject.

In case this letter should appear too solemn, here are some of Malcolm's awful "pomes". He would like to pay a proper tribute to Scott Farrell if he only had the skill. (*False modesty on Malcolm's part! Sarah*)

Chilcott's Passion is rightly desired
For tunes that are greatly admired
And the joy they are bringing
To those listening or singing
Comes from music divinely inspired

Rossini can make your heart melt
The emotion is easily felt
We all think we know well
Petite Messe Solennelle
Even when we forget how it's spelt.

A fine tribute to Scott is intended
My earlier "pome" (*see right*) duly extended
But if this hurried quickie
Looked like taking the mickey
The least said the soonest t'were mended

That Director of Music, Scott Farrell
Resplendent in scarlet apparel
Can make a choir sing
Almost any old thing
From *Te Deums* to *Roll out the Barrel*.
From May 2014 Newsletter

With best wishes

Yours sincerely,

Malcolm and Sarah

Malcolm Moulton and Sarah Anderson, Friends' Secretaries



For those with multi-year diaries, here is a list of forthcoming concerts, up to 2018, as far as actual dates are at present known.

The concerts are all in Rochester Cathedral and conducted by Scott Farrell, with the exception of the War Requiem which may involve a guest conductor.

Please verify this information, nearer the dates concerned

24 June 2017	CPE Bach: Magnificat
	Haydn: Missa in tempore belli
18 Nov 2017	Jenkins "The Armed Man"
	Vaughan Williams: Sancta Civitas
17 March 2018	Rossini: Petite Messe Solennelle
23 June 2018	Haydn: Harmonie Messe
	Schubert: Mass in B ^b
Autumn 2018 <i>Date to be confirmed</i>	Britten: War Requiem
Spring 2019 <i>Date to be confirmed</i>	Stainer: Crucifixion
	Dvořák: Mass in D
Summer 2019 <i>Date to be confirmed</i>	Mozart: Vespers
	Haydn: Theresienmesse
	Haydn: Te Deum