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## FRIENDS OF ROCHESTER CHORAL SOCIETY

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10<sup>th</sup> February 2010

*Dear*

As a Friend myself, I've been happy to step in as our Secretary, as you might have noticed on the RCS web site [www.rochesterchoral.co.uk](http://www.rochesterchoral.co.uk). If you haven't already visited the site, I do recommend it as a very attractive source of all kinds of information, including current programmes and a résumé of past ones.

For the first time, the Society is offering tickets on-line, to cater for the growing number of people who prefer to operate that way. At present, there is no facility for giving Friends our £5 discount so, until we've solved that, I suggest we still contact Rosemary Clemence ([r.clemence@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:r.clemence@blueyonder.co.uk) or 01634 401049). But I hope you'll feel proud to recommend the on-line ticketing facility to people you know. Your support in this is always appreciated.

But, first, let me tell you about our next concert, on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> March, starting at the new time of 7pm.

This is half-an-hour earlier than previously advertised and is to accommodate the working arrangements of the Rochester Cathedral staff.

It's an interesting mixture of old friends and new, and I hope you'll like this rather novel flyer.

I'm also including some copies as handbills, for you to give to friends, if you'd be so kind.

The design was contributed by a professional graphics artist, to convey the sense of excitement felt by Roger Sayer and the choir. Although you might find it a bit out of the ordinary, I hope you agree it will brighten up our publicity (and the cover of your free programme, when you come and claim it).

From: Malcolm Moulton, 10 London Road Newington, Sittingbourne Kent ME9 7NR  
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The Pergolesi *Stabat Mater* was written in 1736 for male soprano, male alto and orchestra but we will be singing the version for mixed choir and organ, arranged by Desmond Ratcliffe. The choir will get a rest during the Schumann *Dichterliebe* (poet's love) song cycle, written in 1840 as a setting of poems by Heinrich Heine.

John Rutter's *Gloria* was commissioned by the Voices of Mel Olson and first performed on 5<sup>th</sup> May 1974 in Omaha, USA, under the direction of the composer. Listening to its brilliant harmonies and exciting cadences, it is easy to understand why Rutter's music has gained in popularity throughout the last century and still continues.

The piece which is (just) of the present century is *The Passing of the Year* by Jonathan Dove. This short but sparkling work was first performed at London's Barbican Centre on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2000. Its seven movements are settings of poems by William Blake, Emily Dickinson, George Peele, Thomas Nashe and Alfred Lord Tennyson, whose *Ring out, wild bells* is duly obeyed by the composer, with eight voice parts ringing the changes.

I hope you'll find this programme at least as attractive as the poster and look forward to meeting you at the Cathedral.

Before I sign off, I'd like you to know that the Society is studying ways to make Friends' membership more attractive and to render better value for your support. I will be writing again soon, to let you know of any proposed changes. Meanwhile, we will take account of any suggestions you wish to make, if you'd be kind enough to contact me (as above).

I am including two flyers with each mailing, except for those members of the choir who can pick them up at rehearsals.

With friendly greetings and thanks for your invaluable support

Yours sincerely

*Malcolm*

Malcolm Moulton  
Friends' Secretary  
and *Making Music* Representative, Rochester Choral Society