



## **FRIENDS OF ROCHESTER CHORAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER NUMBER 15 ... 9<sup>th</sup> January 2013**

*Dear Friend*

Let me first wish you a happy and healthy 2013 and hope you will enjoy the coming season of concerts.

The Christmas Concert in the Corn Exchange, on 1<sup>st</sup> December, formed part of the Dickens Festival, and so it was important that Medway councillors should attend. This they certainly did, including the Mayor and Mayoress, in full Dickens costume. Gavin Williams told us on Tuesday that he thought it the best RCS Christmas concert he could remember. And I'm happy to tell you that my "pome", written specially for the occasion, was given an enthusiastic reception. It recounted the Society's history (our first concert having been given in the Corn Exchange in December 1873, so next year will be our 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary) and emphasised our role as part of Medway's cultural scene. Members were given its text by Rosemary Clemence and Mary Burslem has put it on the website, as an archive in the "members" section.

I mention this because Mary is doing a sterling job, putting so much interesting information on the site and keeping it updated. That includes flagging-up next season's concerts. She also explains why we will not be performing the Berlioz *Te Deum* in the Spring Concert. Roger Sayer decided we would have insufficient voices to resource the full version and the reduced version would not do justice to the work. Although this will disappoint some people, the good news is that we will instead perform Haydn's *Marie Therese Te Deum* and the wonderful Mozart *Requiem*, in the Cathedral. And in case you don't already know, the Rheinberger Organ Concerto is quite charming. I do hope you will support this concert,

Also explained is the changed Autumn Concert, because the German Ars Nova choir will not now be joining us. Instead of the Brahms *German Requiem*, we have a charming selection of music, including a short piece, appropriately commemorating the centenary of Britten's birth. This concert will be in the St George's Centre.

One of my reasons for writing to you was to explain all this, which I've done briefly. But it's all available on the web, thanks to Mary. On the reverse of this letter is the programme, also "lifted" from the website but with some added comments of my own.

Although many of us these days have access to the internet, I will continue to update you in these newsletters, hoping to add some further interest and always inviting your comments.

With all good wishes

*Yours sincerely*

*Malcolm*

*Upcoming concerts*

**Saturday 13th April 2013, 7 pm**

**Haydn: Te Deum in C**

**Rheinberger: Organ Concerto no. 2 in G Minor**

**Mozart: Requiem**

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.**

**Buy your tickets [online!](#)**

Please contact Rosemary Clemence - email: [tickets@rochesterchoral.co.uk](mailto:tickets@rochesterchoral.co.uk) or telephone: 01634 401049 - for tickets.

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**Verdi Requiem (with guest singers)** (*This is another example of the work we are doing for Medway Council, to encourage participation in choral music. Please support us in this if you possibly can*)

**Saturday 6th July 2013, 7 pm**

**Verdi: Requiem**

Directed by Roger Sayer

*St. George's Centre, Chatham Maritime*

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**Autumn Concert**

**Saturday 9th November 2013, 7 pm**

**Elgar: From Bavarian Highlands**

**Finzi: Five Bagatelles for Clarinet**

**Britten: The Ballad of Little Musgrave and Lady Barnard** (*for men's voices*)

**Dove: The Passing of the Year** (*This was greatly enjoyed, by audience and singers alike, when we sang it in March 2010*)

**Dawson (arr.): Three Spirituals (Soon ah will be done; Every time I feel the spirit; King Jesus is a listening)** (*These are the beautiful spirituals that we sang in New England in May-June 2010, with the Granite State Choral Society of Rochester, New Hampshire*)

**Chilcott (arr.): Skye Boat Song**

Conducted by Roger Sayer

*St. George's Centre, Chatham Maritime*

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**Spring 2014 - date to be confirmed**

**Poulenc: Gloria**

**Fauré: Requiem**

With the Rochester Sinfonietta

Conducted by Roger Sayer

*Rochester Cathedral*

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**Summer 2014 - date to be confirmed**

**Handel: Israel in Egypt**

With the Rochester Sinfonietta