



**FRIENDS OF ROCHESTER
CHORAL SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER NUMBER 18**

14th May 2014



Dear Friend (and prospective Friend)

I realise that I hadn't sent a newsletter so far this year and can only apologise. The Spring Concert on 29th March was deemed a great success and made a fitting send-off for Roger Sayer, after his 20-year spell as the Society's Director of Music. It was, in fact, Roger who chose Handel's Oratorio *Israel in Egypt* for our next concert and our Director of Music, Scott Farrell, is working hard to prepare us in the relatively short time available.

Because the website contains so much helpful information, I only give a précis overleaf of future concerts. It was pointed out to me that, at one time, the Friends of RCS were much more numerous than we are today. This is unfortunate as Friends' subscriptions help towards our ability to put on performances of the music we love to sing. They also swelled the funds raised by choral society members for buying our concert staging. Some of you might recall how sales of the booklets of "pomes" contributed as well.

It was suggested that I appeal to Society members who aren't Friends already so I am widening the circulation for this issue. It was also suggested that I might include the occasional "pome" (at the risk of putting people off), so I'll choose from "*Sillicisms*" or its sequel, which was about music makers.

For a line that's melodious and strong
You'll never go very far wrong
For there's none holds a candle
To George Frideric Handel
Telling biblical stories in song.

(New composition)

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

(From "*Don't start me off again*")

Some newer members might be unaware of the team efforts that enabled us to buy our concert staging and the benefits that have resulted.

When our own-designed staging was condemned as "unsafe", we sang from the chancel steps until people complained about not hearing us above the orchestra. Hiring proved uneconomic so we raised the money to buy our own, with generous help from members, Friends and local sponsors. After much design effort we were allowed to keep the staging in the Cathedral Chair Store. While we own the staging and have first call on its use, the Cathedral can offer it to other users, sharing the proceeds with us. The Vergers have an expert team to erect, dismantle and store it.

I believe it has been a fine example of team work between all involved, including the Friends.

Of course there are RCS members among the Friends already but I'd like to appeal to anyone else, who might feel able to help financially, to join them. Subscriptions run from 1st October (details overleaf) and reduce for late starters. Please let me know if you are interested.

I thank everyone for their friendship and concert attendance throughout the year.

Yours sincerely,

Malcolm

Malcolm Moulton, Friends' Secretary tel: 01 795 843 172; e-mail: mmoulton01@aol.com

Upcoming concerts

Israel in Egypt

Saturday 7th June 2014, 7 pm

Handel: Israel in Egypt

Johanna Chambers, Soprano; Jemima Jackson, Soprano
Raphael Janssens, Treble; Toby Forster, Counter-Tenor
Clifford Lister, Tenor; Alistair Bamford, Bass; James Wilkinson, Bass

With the Rochester Sinfonietta

Conducted by Scott Farrell ... *Rochester Cathedral*

Tickets: £18 (front of nave), £14 (rear of nave), £7 (unreserved - mostly in aisles), £5 (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!](#)

tickets@rochesterchoral.co.uk or telephone: 01634 401049 - for tickets.

Autumn 2014 Concert

Saturday 8th November 2014, 7pm

Brahms: Ein deutsches Requiem (piano duet version)

Conducted by Scott Farrell ... *St. George's Centre, Chatham*

Spring 2015 Concert

Saturday 21st March 2015, 7 pm

Vierne: Messe Solennelle (brass and organ version)

Chilcott: Salisbury Vespers

Conducted by Scott Farrell ... *Rochester Cathedral*

Friends' benefits and subscriptions

To join, contact Malcolm Moulton mmoulton01@aol.com

10 London Rd Newington, Sittingbourne Kent ME9 7NR, tel 01 795 843 172

As a Friend, you receive:

- £5 off your front-nave seat or £3 off any other*.
- A free programme at each concert
- Newsletters, in the form of pre-concert mailings and
- An opportunity to socialise at our concerts.

* You can offer your discounted ticket to a friend or family member. Some fixed-price concerts (eg Christmas) are not included

Subscriptions are: 'Solo Friend': £30 for a year (life membership £300).

'Duet Friends': £50 per couple (life membership £450).

The Treasurer is Chris Clemence, 246 City Way, Rochester ME1 2BN

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To subscribe on-line please pay to Rochester Choral Society

Sort code: 40-39-02; Account n^o:21028936

And let Chris know by e-mail. Thank you!

At present, there are no facilities for paying by credit card but this is being investigated.