



**FRIENDS OF ROCHESTER
CHORAL SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER NUMBER 24**

10 February 2016



Dear Friend

Whether we are singers or not there is so much to look forward to in 2016 and beyond!

Our Spring concert, in the Cathedral, on 12th March, contains contemporary music some of which has already become well-known. The programme contains what have become classical favourites as well as new music to keep our interests alive.

John Rutter's music is enjoyed all over the world and it is perhaps surprising that the RCS had not performed his *Requiem* before. It includes part of the Latin mass, with extracts from biblical text in English. This year, we will add it to works which we have sung during a composer's lifetime (something of an RCS tradition, ever since 1873).

The Estonian composer, Arvo Pärt, is also popular to a growing audience and, although we have not sung *The Beatitudes* before, the work well deserves its place in our repertoire of contemporary music. It is sung in English.

Perhaps slightly more of a linguistic challenge for the choir, (though, fortunately not for the audience) are the other two works.

Leonard Bernstein's well-known *Chichester Psalms*, although written for the Dean of Chichester Cathedral, is in Hebrew. This is a lovely language in which to sing once the pronunciation is mastered. A work of genius, I believe its great popularity is very much due to its rhythm and tunefulness, not least in the beautifully moving alto solo, whose melody is taken up by the whole choir.

Another linguistic challenge is *Otče Náš* (Our Father) by Janáček, which will be sung in Czech, making a lovely rich sound. The music is haunting and, in my experience, audiences say how much they enjoy listening to it.

The programme which Scott Farrell has put together will be one to remember, so please do your best to attend and encourage others to do so. The following concerts are listed overleaf, with details taken from the RCS website, a fascinating source of information about all aspects of the Society. You will notice that all these concerts will take place in the Cathedral.

As usual, Sarah is sending out concert flyers to help you in spreading the word.

Thank you for your invaluable help and support.

Yours sincerely,

Malcolm and Sarah

Malcolm Moulton and Sarah Anderson, Friends' Secretaries



Summer Concert 2016

Saturday 25th June 2016, 7 pm

Mozart: Great Mass in C Minor
Vivaldi: Gloria

With the Rochester Sinfonietta

Conducted by Scott Farrell

Rochester Cathedral

Tickets: £15 (unreserved - nave), £7 (unreserved restricted view - mostly in the 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 aisle seats (please contact Rosemary direct for Friends tickets).

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

Autumn Concert 2016

Date: t.b.c.

Fauré: Requiem
Langlais: Messe Solennelle

Conducted by Scott Farrell

Rochester Cathedral

Spring Concert 2017

Date: t.b.c.

Chilcott: St. John Passion
Mixed motets for Passiontide

Conducted by Scott Farrell

Rochester Cathedral

Summer Concert 2017

Date: t.b.c.

C.P.E. Bach: Magnificat
Haydn: Missa in tempore belli

With the Rochester Sinfonietta

Conducted by Scott Farrell

Rochester Cathedral