



**FRIENDS OF ROCHESTER  
CHORAL SOCIETY  
NEWSLETTER NUMBER 27**

20<sup>th</sup> November 2016



*Dear Friend*

Once again we are sending out a pre-Christmas newsletter, to create an opportunity to report on the Autumn Concert and, because I forgot last time, to send out a reminder that subs would be due on 2<sup>nd</sup> October!

A number of Friends have already paid and I would like to thank them and respectfully remind others of the importance of prompt settlement. On the next page are all the details needed. Please send remittances direct to our Treasurer, Chris Clemence, rather than to Sarah or me. Chris will be happy to discuss any financial issues that need resolution.

Those who were singing in last night's concert, or were in the audience, would have had a truly uplifting experience. Scott Farrell introduced the Langlais Messe Solennelle, in the first half of the concert, by announcing the inclusion of organ works before the *Kyrie* and after the *Gloria* and *Benedictus* movements, after the manner of masses in France, where there are fewer choral resources than in England. The result was tremendous, with the choir matching the power of the organ passages in a way that made the whole cathedral ring, testifying to the accuracy with which Scott's conducting was followed. To round off the first half, the treble soloist, Archie Caithness, sang *Panis Angelicus* by César Franck, earning prolonged applause, the first of the performance.

After the interval, with orchestral accompaniment from the Rochester Sinfonietta, we performed the Fauré Requiem. This beautifully balanced a programme that should long remain in people's memories. Archie sang the lovely *Pie Jesu*.

We had predicted an outstanding performance and Scott Farrell is to be congratulated for bringing the choir to high levels in two such contrasting works: one a difficult piece by a blind composer whose life spanned most of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and the other, a well-known work but still quite hard to sing really well. I think the Friends would wish to congratulate all who contributed, including the striking programme with its excellent and informative programme notes. These will be worthy souvenirs of a most successful evening.

Friends may also be interested in the progress being made by the Chamber Choir, a group of 20 RCS singers who perform for their own enjoyment and, like the Friends, raise funds for RCS. Organised by Roz Cummins and conducted by Peter Ashley, they already have six engagements before Christmas, adding a further dimension to the value of RCS to the community.

We know it's still a while before Christmas but this is the last chance for Sarah and me to thank you for your generous support and to wish you many more enjoyable concerts, a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

*Yours sincerely,*

*Malcolm and Sarah*

Malcolm Moulton and Sarah Anderson, Friends' Secretaries



### **Friends Annual Subscriptions, benefits and payment**

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

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

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.

Some fixed-price concerts (eg Christmas) are not included

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

tel: 01634 401049 ... e-mail: [chrisclarence.cc@gmail.com](mailto:chrisclarence.cc@gmail.com)

He will be happy to receive cash or cheque payments.

**To pay on-line (for those with on-line banking), please pay to**

**Name: Rochester Choral Society**

**Sort code: 40-39-02**

**Account n°: 21028936**

And let Chris know by e-mail. (Please note the new address above)

**Please make all payments directly to Chris, (not to me).  
Thank you.**