



FRIENDS OF ROCHESTER CHORAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER NUMBER 31

14 February 2018



Dear Friend

A warm welcome to our Friends, old and new, as we look forward to the forthcoming Spring concert on 17th March.

First, it is worth looking back with pleasure, and not a little pride, at last November's concert. The sudden indisposition of our Director of Music caused some alarm until we learned that Scott Farrell had asked his Assistant, James Norrey, to rush down from Scotland to deputise, just two days before the concert. James did so and, on the day, directed the RCS and Rochester Sinfonietta with both authority and enthusiasm.



This led to a very good performance indeed, which the near-capacity audience applauded strenuously.

Several people became RCS members at the "Sing and Discover" event on 3rd February, where we sang choruses from Messiah, at St Stephen's church Chatham. Sarah and other RCS colleagues did a wonderful job of organising the day, which was led by John Hancorn and Richard Wigmore. One of the beauties of this Handel oratorio is that it gets better the more you learn about it and this was well borne out. It also gave me the chance to sing again with RCS.

Please support the Spring Concert at which RCS will sing Rossini's brilliant "*Petite Messe Solennelle*" and encourage others, in your inimitable ways.

We have all no doubt encountered (other people's) difficulties in spelling the title, which has inspired my latest 'pome'.

Why call it *Petite Messe Solennelle*?

It's not a mass, it's full length and sounds jolly
as well

And it's true to say, from Kyrie

Right up to Agnus Dei

It spreads good cheer and charms the ear

And is tuneful, all the wei.

But it can put you off song if the title's spelt wrong

And if I had my way, I'd compel it

If we're going to tell of the Messe Solennelle

It sure helps if we know how to spell it!

With best wishes

Yours sincerely,

Malcolm and Sarah

Malcolm Moulton and Sarah Anderson, Friends' Secretaries



Forthcoming attractions:

All on Saturdays at 7 pm in Rochester Cathedral.

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| Spring 17 March 2018 | Rossini: Petite Messe Solennelle | |
| Summer 23 June 2018 | Haydn: Harmonie Messe Schubert: Mass in B ^b | With Rochester Sinfonietta |
| Autumn 17 November 2018 | Britten: War Requiem | With the Thanet Festival Choir and Sutton Valence Choral Society With City of Rochester Symphony Orchestra and Rochester Sinfonietta Chamber Soloists |

In addition, Rochester Choral Society are holding a social **Quiz night on Saturday 19 May 2018, at St Stephen's Church, Chatham**, to which all are welcome. Details will be circulated later in the year, but in the meantime, please do put this date in your diary.



A couple of photos from the Sing and Discover Messiah day, led by John Hancorn and Richard Wigmore