

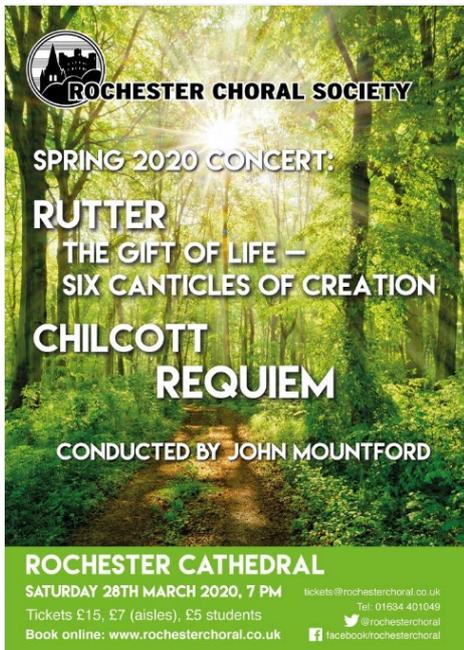


**FRIENDS OF ROCHESTER
CHORAL SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER 37
February 2020**



Dear Friend

Making a fresh start to a new year and a new decade, Rochester Choral Society will make the ancient stones of Rochester Cathedral resound with two recent choral works by living, British composers.



Bob Chilcott's *Requiem* (written in 2010) combines evocative layers of plaintive harmonies with spiky, modern rhythms, building to a dramatic climax in the urgent, pleading 'Libera me', but concluding serenely with a soprano solo which seems to soar to Heaven.

In contrast to this poignant but ultimately consolatory meditation on Death, John Rutter's *The Gift of Life* (completed in 2015) is a musical celebration of Creation and Life itself. These six 'Canticles', mostly based on biblical texts, are enlivened by Rutter's unerring ear for a sing-able tune. The rousing, rhythmic variety of the six movements evokes the diversity and profusion of Nature.

The concert is on Saturday 28th March 2020, to be conducted by our Musical Director, John Mountford, and accompanied by a chamber ensemble.

We'd like to extend our sincere thanks on behalf of Rochester Choral Society to Friends Chris and Rosemary Clemence who have recently stepped down as Treasurer and Secretary to the Choral Society after many, many years. We are very glad to report that both continue to sing in the choir!

We'd also like to welcome, William Little, to his new role as Treasurer. William sings in the choir as a tenor, and is also a Life Friend of the Choral Society.

As it's been quite a while since we have gone through the exercise of updating our Gift Aid records, we are taking this opportunity to circulate our new Gift Aid form. If you are a tax payer, we would be very grateful if you could complete this and return it to us, either with a scanned or photographed copy by email, or a hard copy by post to the Vines Church where we rehearse. Alternatively, email Sarah on rochesterchoral@gmail.com and arrange to drop it in to her workplace in the centre of Rochester. I realise that some have done this in the last couple of years, but having the new form enables us to check our records are completely up to date.

We look forward to seeing you on the 28th March!

Yours sincerely,

Malcolm and Sarah

Malcolm Moulton and Sarah Anderson, Friends' Secretaries



Forthcoming concerts and events

(Please contact the Tickets Secretary on tickets@rochesterchoral.co.uk direct for Friends tickets)

Spring 2020 Saturday 28 March, 7pm Rochester Cathedral	Rutter: The Gift of Life – Six Canticles of Creation Chilcott: Requiem
Summer 2020 Saturday 20 June 2020, 7pm Rochester Cathedral	Haydn: Insanae et Vanae Curae Haydn: Heiligmesse Mozart: Requiem
Autumn 2020 Saturday 28 November 2020, 7pm St Margaret's Church St Margaret's Street Rochester ME1 1UF	Peeters: Entrata Festiva for organ, brass and timpani op. 93 Jongen: Mass op. 130 for choir, brass and organ Rutter: A Sprig of Thyme
Spring 2021 Date to be confirmed Rochester Cathedral	Haydn: Creation
Summer 2021 Date to be confirmed Rochester Cathedral	Schöpfungsmesse (Creation Mass) Mozart: Coronation Mass

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 (please contact the Tickets Secretary on tickets@rochesterchoral.co.uk direct for Friends tickets).