



Tim Beveridge

Tim joined the choir in 2023. RCS had engaged him as an interim accompanist and when that role ended, we snapped him up. Since then he has acted as our Christmas Chorusmaster and is also our Bass Voice Rep.

Born in Darlington in County Durham, Tim started to play piano in school and then added flute and organ. He read Music at Huddersfield, where he was First Study Piano and was excited to participate in the town's Contemporary Music Festival, the UK's largest international festival of new and experimental music. He had the chance to work with renowned composers Gyorgi Ligeti and Henry Gorecki, as well as meeting Olivier Messiaen and Pierre Boulez. Ligeti could be difficult, constantly changing his mind about the order of notes within the music and complaining about the weather and the food!

Emerging with his BMus (Hons) in 1994 he scoured the Monday jobs pages of the Guardian, aiming to move to London. He landed a job at Boosey & Hawkes, working in the hire library in the basement of their Regent Street shop. This gave him connections to music publishing and the BBC, which he eventually joined doing schedules for Radio 3, before working on the first incarnation of the Proms website as its on line producer.

Sitting crammed in a small box at the Royal Albert Hall, intercepting emails and passing them on to the TV director, he had to once shoo away Bryn Terfel who would pop his head around the door for a chat. He was overwhelmed by the power and intensity of the Berlin Philharmonic playing Bruckner - "What an incredible machine".



Over the years Tim has served as Director of Music/ Accompanist/ Organist for four different churches and been MD for many musical theatre groups and choirs. As a freelance accompanist he used to play for English National Opera soprano Suzannah Clarke. In 2002 they were invited to North Korea for the two-week 'Spring Friendship Festival' and became its first British performers. The so-called festival turned out to be a competition with singers, musicians and dancers from all over the world invited to celebrate the birthday of the country's original founder, Kim Il Sung. Suzannah and Tim appeared on state TV and won the Gold Medal, despite being hospitalised twice for food poisoning. The programme included arias from La Traviata, folk songs such as Danny Boy and finished up with the theme from Titanic!

Working in the Press Office of the Royal Opera House during their production of The Ring Cycle he had the idea of doing a diary room for the ROH website inspired by the one in Big Brother. The singers loved it, especially Bryn Terfel (again) who was always dropping by and had to be asked to give other people a chance! After two years there he wanted to try something different and joined the Walt Disney company as online producer for their European charitable programmes. He now works for the Government Digital Service.

Tim moved to Rochester during Covid, having got to know the area when visiting a friend in Strood. It was a wrench at first but now he is busily involved with RCS, running our Christmas events, and working with Rainham Ladies' Choir and the Kent & Medway Young Musicians Trust.

Tim's favourite piece of music is Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring*, which he thinks is equally powerful in the concert hall or on the ballet stage. As well as baking wedding cakes and being a proud cat-owner, Tim has written a musical called *Rocket*, in collaboration with a lyricist he has known since school days. It is based on the history of George Stevenson, inventor of the railways in the North East, and how he revolutionised travel. There are 16 songs ready to go. Watch out for our next collaboration!

Jocelyne Wilson