

# CRESCENDO

News from  
The Chichester Singers



No. 29

AUGUST 2021

Jonathan Willcocks

## A REALLY GREAT SERIES OF CONCERTS FOR THE NEW SEASON

Well, what a roller-coaster the past 18 months have been! Beginning with the disappointment of our March 2020 concert falling victim to the first salvo of the pandemic, through the first lockdown when many of you discovered the challenges of selfie-video singing (the final edited results proving that the whole is so much more than the sum of the parts) to a whole year of 'can-we-can't-we' rehearsals mixing socially-distanced singing with Zoom-world.

But now we must look forward confidently and optimistically, as we have a really great series of concerts planned as The Chichester Singers returns to what we all love to do. And where better to start than one of my absolute favourites: Elgar – *The Dream of Gerontius*. This great work was performed in my very first concert conducting the choir in May 1979 and we have a wonderful trio of soloists in James Oxley in the title role of Gerontius, Diana Moore as The Angel, together with the outstanding young baritone Ossian Huskinson.

Then in mid-January, when all the hullabaloo of the festive season is behind us and everyone is seeking mid-winter inspiration, where better to go to than Handel – *Messiah*, with all those fantastic choruses that everyone thinks they know and very few get absolutely accurate!

In planning repertoire for the choir, I always seek to balance the established masterpieces of the past with works by living composers – some of whom may well in 200 years be viewed as the truly great of the 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> centuries.

For our March 2022 concert we pair two works by living composers from each side of the Atlantic – Morten Lauridsen's evocative *Lux Aeterna* contrasting with the unrestrained exuberance and melodic attractions of John Rutter's *Magnificat*.

A marvellous feature of the past decades of the choir's life has been tours to various European destinations, which have offered every three years the heady mix of singing in wonderful venues, enjoying the surrounding culture and indulging in heavy doses of great socialising. The latest edition of 'The Chichester Singers abroad' was planned for May 2020, rescheduled optimistically to May 2021 – both plans being scuppered by Covid 19. But we WILL prevail and, with hearty thanks to our tour organisers for their perseverance, a strong contingent of the choir (together with our much-loved band of tour groupies) will embark to Portugal in May 2022.

And to round off the season, a dear friend of the choir – the composer and jazz pianist Will Todd – will return in June to perform with us in his *Mass in Blue*, which was so very much enjoyed by choir and audience alike when we first performed it in the Cathedral in 2009. Coupled with this piece will be the colourful *Songs of a Rainbow Nation* by another leading British composer (and coincidentally another very fine jazz musician) Alexander L'Estrange.

So – I very much look forward to seeing you all for real in-person rehearsals from September, confident that the mixture of double-jab vaccination and careful planning of our rehearsal arrangements will allow us to enjoy what we have all missed so much – singing together.

Best wishes - Jonathan

## MESSAGE FROM CAROLYN

Plans are well under way for the resumption of proper rehearsals and concerts and full information will be sent to members towards the end of August.

The first rehearsal is **7.00 pm, Wednesday 8th September, at Christ Church, South Street, Chichester**, and the following week we return to Chichester High School.

Hazel Gillett has given a good deal of attention to the website over the summer and all information about rehearsals and concerts will be regularly updated. It would be good if we could all develop a habit of checking it regularly when we need information about rehearsals etc. Watch out too for a new social media campaign led by Lou Bruce.

We hope to welcome new members in September as we embark on our exciting new programme. I can't wait to see us all together again!

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

David Swayne will be in touch on 1<sup>st</sup>. September about subscriptions which are due then. This year's rate is **£140 less £10 prompt payment discount** if you pay in September. He looks forward to receiving your subscriptions in September by bank transfer and he will let you know the account details then.

## WHO DOES WHAT

(there will be some committee changes after the AGM)

**Chairman:** Carolyn Shaw

**Hon. Secretary:** Izabela Mayne

**Hon. Treasurer:** David Swayne

**Musical Director:** Jonathan Willcocks

**Accompanist:** Sue Graham Smith

**Choir website:** Hazel Gillett

**Concert programmes & posters, *Crescendo*:** Jill Selwood

**Librarian:** Peter Lunt

**Membership Secretary & Concert Manager:** Wendy Bray

**Patrons' Secretary:** Mary Isgar

**Poster & leaflet distribution:** Fiona Bell

**Social media:** Lou Bruce

**Social Secretary:** Sandra Fowler Bennett

**Folders & scarves:** Jacinta Neal

**Tickets:** Maggie Pugh

**Tour Organisers 2022:** Chrissy Harbroe-Bush and Mandy Lunt



# FUTURE CONCERTS



## Saturday, 13th November 2021

Chichester Cathedral, 7.30 pm

**Elgar**                      *The Dream of Gerontius*

## Saturday, 15th January 2022

Chichester Cathedral, 7.30 pm

**Handel**                      *Messiah*

## Saturday, 26th March 2022

Chichester Cathedral, 7.30 pm

**Morten Lauridsen** *Lux Aeterna*  
**John Rutter**              *Magnificat*

## Friday 20th-Tuesday 24th May 2022

**Choir tour to Portugal**

## Saturday, 18th June 2022

Chichester Cathedral, 7.30 pm

**Alexander L'Estrange** *Songs of a Rainbow Nation*

**Will Todd**                      *Mass in Blue*

## CHOIR TOUR TO PORTUGAL - MAY 2022

All fingers and toes are crossed for third time lucky for the Chichester Singers tour to Lisbon and Cascais 20th to 24th May 2022, following two postponements due to Covid. A significant number of members are staying for a week!

We are looking forward to performing concerts in Lisbon Cathedral and a Parish Church in Ericeira (north of Cascais on the Atlantic Coast) - two contrasting venues. The whole group (99 of us, including accompanying guests) are staying in the Hotel Baia in Cascais, overlooking a sweeping bay at the mouth of the Tagus. Cascais is a favoured seaside resort just 40 minutes from Lisbon with some nice beaches, many restaurants and local walks.

Optional excursions including a boat trip around Lisbon have been organised, and this promises to be a great opportunity to enjoy singing in new venues and enjoying the company of fellow choir members. If anyone is interested in joining the tour there may be space available, subject to flight availability. Please contact Chrissy Harbroe-Bush for further information.

Chrissy Harbroe-Bush & Mandy Lunt - Choir Tour Co-ordinators

### IMPORTANT

Please let Izabela know if any of your contact details have changed



[www.chichestersingers.co.uk](http://www.chichestersingers.co.uk)

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### Autumn term 2021: Wednesday, 8th September

AGM	Wednesday, 20th October
Half-term break	Wednesday, 27th October
Concert	Saturday, 13th November

### Spring term 2022: Wednesday, 5th January

Concert	Saturday, 15th January
Half-term break	Wednesday, 23rd February
Concert	Saturday, 26th March

### Summer term 2022: Wednesday, 20th April

Choir tour	Friday 20th -Tuesday 24th May
Half-term break	Wednesday, 25th May
Concert	Saturday, 18th June

Editor: Jill Selwood