

❑ Nantwich Choral Society ❑

NANTWICH CHORAL SOCIETY evolved from a WEA evening class in 1972 under the leadership of its first conductor, Michael Bax. It has grown into a Society with over 90 singing members drawn from a wide geographical area. NCS has gained an enviable reputation for its high standard of performance. Particularly popular are the Society's annual performances of MESSIAH and CAROLS FOR CHOIR AND AUDIENCE

❑ The Conductors ❑

STEPHEN BUCKMAN has been the conductor of Nantwich Choral Society since 1983. Stephen is a professional conductor who studied organ, composition, singing and conducting in London and Paris. He began performing as an organist and harpsichordist, but soon developed a more eclectic career as a conductor and voice coach. As well as conducting choirs and orchestras throughout the British Isles, and in France and Germany, Stephen has also worked regularly as a Musical Director and Voice Coach in the professional theatre in London's West End and in America.

PATRICK LARLEY, a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists, studied organ and singing at the Royal Northern College of Music. He began his professional career as a Vicar Choral in the choir of Wells Cathedral and as a tutor at Wells Cathedral Music School. Subsequently, Patrick has held the posts of Sub-Organist at St. Asaph Cathedral; Organist and Master of the Choristers at Great Grimsby Parish Church and Director of Music at St. James' Choir School, Grimsby; and Director of Music at Ellesmere College, Shropshire. Patrick is now a busy freelance musician, combining a performing career as a singer, harpsichordist, organist and conductor with teaching and composing.

Patrick Larley is to become Conductor of Nantwich Choral Society in January 1998.

❑ Nantwich Parish Church ❑

The Society's chosen venue, the Parish Church of St Mary at Nantwich, is often described as 'the Cathedral of South Cheshire'.

A fourteenth century gem, it was considered by Sir John Betjeman to be architecturally one of the most satisfying mediaeval town churches in the country.

The vast nave, originally designed for public performance, must have witnessed many musical offerings in its six hundred year history. Like so many buildings of its time the acoustics are superb. It is for this reason that members of the Choir, as well as the professional musicians they engage to work with them, consider it a privilege to perform at St Mary's.

Nantwich Choral Society is supported by:

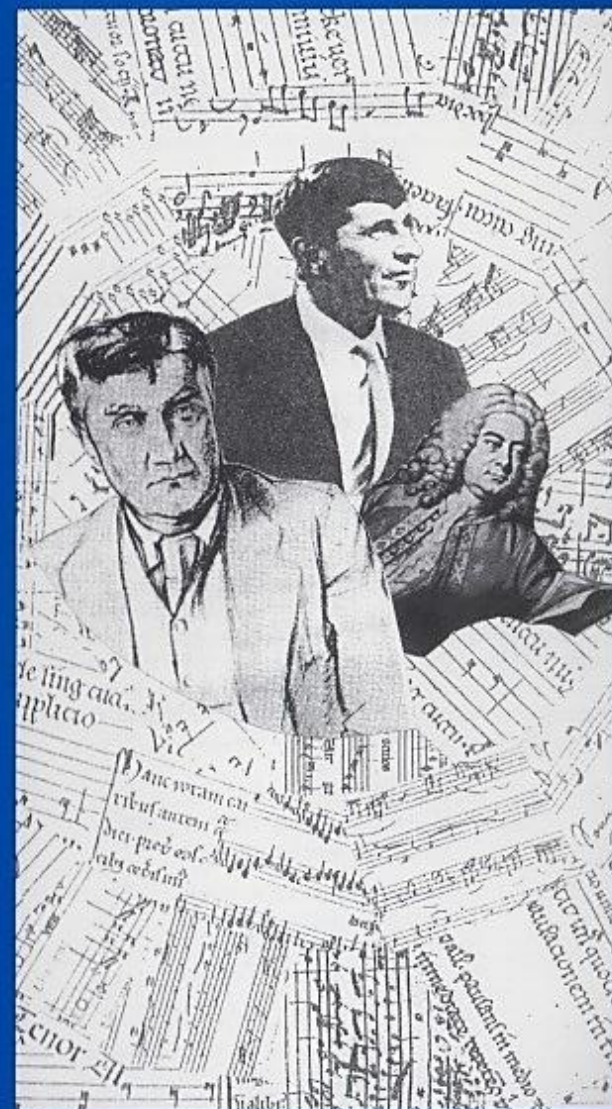
The Federation of Music Societies

Crewe & Nantwich Borough Council

Nantwich Town Council

The Harding Trust

Nantwich Choral Society 1997/1998 Programme



❖ Nantwich Choral Society ❖

NANTWICH CHORAL SOCIETY attracts ever-growing audiences to its concerts. NCS performs a wide range of choral works, including rarely performed masterpieces and world premieres of contemporary composers.

NANTWICH CHORAL SOCIETY employs professional soloists and orchestras exclusively. Orchestral musicians are drawn from major orchestras and singers from the world of opera and oratorio.

❖ Programme of Events ❖

M. TIPPETT - A CHILD OF OUR TIME
R. VAUGHAN WILLIAMS - DONA NOBIS PACEM
 Saturday, 22nd November 1997 at 7.30pm
 Nantwich Parish Church

Fiona Motherway, soprano
 Marjorie Seddon, contralto
 James Gilchrist, tenor
 David Campbell, bass

Stephen Buckman, conductor

The emotional content of this concert is unashamedly intense. Vaughan Williams' *DONA NOBIS PACEM*, premiered in 1938, was written to highlight the growing danger of war in Europe. Tippett's *A CHILD OF OUR TIME* was inspired by a political event in 1938 which was used as the excuse for the cruellest and most deliberate of the Nazi pogroms. These modern masterpieces, rarely performed, and then hardly ever together, are an absolute must for serious concert-goers.

G.F. HANDEL - MESSIAH
 Saturday, 6th December 1997 at 7.00pm
 Nantwich Parish Church

Fiona Motherway, soprano
 Marjorie Seddon, contralto
 James Gilchrist, tenor
 Philip Ravenscroft, bass

Stephen Buckman, conductor

Handel's *MESSIAH* is simultaneously the most famous and the most popular oratorio in the repertoire. Nantwich Choral Society's annual performance combines the Baroque splendour of Handel's music with the mediaeval glory of Nantwich Parish Church. Presented in its entirety, the Society's sparkling performances attract audiences from far and wide.

❖ Programme of Events ❖

continued

CAROLS FOR CHOIR AND AUDIENCE
 Saturday, 20th December 1997 at 7.30pm
 Nantwich Parish Church

David Campbell, baritone
 Joy Roberts, pianoforte

Stephen Buckman, conductor

Like the Society's annual performance of *MESSIAH*, this musical 'Christmas Party' is a great favourite in the South Cheshire musical calendar. Forget the hassles that intrude into this most joyous season, and enjoy a concert of Christmas music old and new.

G.F. HANDEL - SEMELE
 Saturday, 9th May 1998 at 7.30pm
 Nantwich Parish Church

Tina Jones, soprano
 Annette Wood, contralto
 Richard Roddis, tenor
 Richard Paul, bass

Patrick Larley, conductor

Handel composed *SEMELE* from a libretto which was originally conceived as a 3-act opera. Although intended for the concert platform and not the stage, Handel's score still retains all the drama of its story of jealous love and revenge, and also contains two of his most popular and best-loved arias - *Where e'er you walk* and *Sleep, why dost thou leave me*.

BOX OFFICE

Telephone: 01270 625641

Tickets are also available from St. Mary's Church Shop, Society Members and of course, at the door. Standard concessions apply.

Registered by the Charity Commission - Register No. 516572

Member of the National Federation of Music Societies

❖ Booking Information ❖

Season Ticket Offer
SAVE £8 ON THE SEASON
(£6 on concessions)

UNTIL 8th NOVEMBER YOU CAN OBTAIN A SEASON TICKET FOR THE ENTIRE SERIES OF CONCERTS IN OUR 1997/1998 SEASON AT THE SPECIALLY DISCOUNTED RATE.

BOOKING FORM

Please send me the following tickets:

... Season Ticket for all 4 concerts (full rate) @	£20
... Concessions @	£12
... Tickets for A Child of Our Time on 22.11.97 @	£8
... Concessions @	£5
... Tickets for Messiah on 6.12.97 @	£8
... Concessions @	£5
... Tickets for Carols on 20.12.97 @	£4
... Concessions @	£3
... Children under 10 years old @	£1
... Tickets for Semele on 9.5.98 @	£8
... Concessions @	£5

TOTAL

Send your cheque payable to **Nantwich Choral Society**, and post with the completed application form to the address below. You will receive your tickets by return:

NANTWICH CHORAL SOCIETY,
 69, Welsh Row, Nantwich, Cheshire CW5 5EW

Name

Address

If you would like to be entered on the NCS mailing list please tick ☐ and return to the above address.