



Simon Russell

Simon was born in Liverpool. He studied organ at Birkenhead School with Timothy Lawford and then at Cambridge as Organ Scholar at St.

Catharine's College, where he continued studies with Gillian Weir and the late Peter Le Huray. After Cambridge he was appointed Assistant Organist at Chester Cathedral but decided after a while to keep music as a hobby and gain fortune from computer keyboards.

He was firstly accompanist and then Music Director of the Hoylake Choral Society from 1982 until he moved, in 2000, to Nantwich where he is Organist at St Mary's Parish Church. He is an annual recitalist at Chester Cathedral and is on the 'reserve' organist list covering holiday periods and other absences. He is also in demand as an organ tutor and has many Associated Board and other pupil distinctions and diploma successes to his credit.

Simon was appointed accompanist from September 2010, following Andrew Mildinhal as only the choir's third accompanist in its history.



Rehearsals are held at 7.30pm each Wednesday during term time at the Nantwich Methodist Church, Hospital Street, Nantwich.

New members are assured of a genuinely friendly and supportive welcome and the first term's membership is free of charge.

For further information about the Nantwich Choral Society please visit our website

<http://nantwichchoral.org.uk>

or contact us by email at

enquiries@nantwichchoral.org.uk

Nantwich Choral Society is a Registered Charity No 516572.



Concert Dates and Events

2012 - 2013

Music Director
John Naylor

Accompanist
Simon Russell

Nantwich Choral Society

Each concert season typically comprises four or five major performances, with a number of smaller events, including an NCS-hosted choral singing day, also in the calendar.

The society has performed in a variety of venues including St Michael's Church Coppenhall, Chester Cathedral and Nantwich Civic Hall, but its chosen venue is the Parish Church of St Mary at Nantwich. Often described as 'the Cathedral of South Cheshire', this fourteenth century gem was considered by Sir John Betjeman to be architecturally one of the most satisfying mediaeval churches in the country. The vast nave, originally designed for public performance, has witnessed many musical offerings in its six hundred year history, and its acoustics are superb. These are some of the reasons that members of the Choral Society, and visiting professionals alike, consider it a privilege to perform at St Mary's.

Repertoire

NCS performs a wide range of choral works ranging from Baroque masterpieces to world premieres of contemporary composers, either *a capella* or with accompaniment ranging from piano or organ to brass consort or with their associated fully professional orchestra - The Northern Concordia Orchestra.

Programme of events 2012 - 2013

6 October 2012
St Boniface Church, Bunbury
Singing Day

10 November 2012
St Mary's Church, Nantwich
40th Anniversary Concert
with the 18th Century Concert Orchestra
Handel *Messiah*

22 December 2012
St Mary's Church, Nantwich
Family Christmas Concert

12 January 2013
St Mary's Church, Nantwich
Come and Sing: *The Armed Man*

23 March 2013
Chester Cathedral
Bach *St Matthew Passion*



29 June 2013
St Mary's Church, Nantwich
Puccini *Missa di Gloria*

9 November 2013
St Mary's Church, Nantwich
Autumn Concert



John Naylor

conductor, singer and organist, combines extensive performance experience in world-class choirs with a lifelong passionate interest in choral

music and its performance. Following a successful business career he now devotes most of his activities to conducting and choir development.

His original training was as a choral scholar at St John's College, Cambridge with the great Dr George Guest after keyboard studies with Conrad Eden at Durham Cathedral where he was a chorister, a music scholarship at Rossall School and singing studies with Wilfrid Brown and Lyndon van der Pump from The Royal College of Music.

He has sung in the cathedral choirs of Oxford, Carlisle and Chester and has extensive performance experience with other professional choirs including The Monteverdi Choir, The Louis Halsey Singers, The Academy of St Martin in the Fields and the Chapel Royal of H M Tower of London.

John has been Director of The Lydian Singers since 1980 and also conducts the Open University Chapel Choir.

He was appointed Music Director of Nantwich Choral Society in September 2005 for whom he has conducted many highly acclaimed performances.