

Nantwich Choral Society

Highlights of English Church Music

John Naylor, conductor

Simon Russell, organist

St Mary's Church, Nantwich

Saturday 28th June 2014, 7.30 pm

NANTWICH CHORAL SOCIETY

Please join our

200 Club

for a chance to win a monthly cash prize and help us to keep on
performing adventurous concerts!

For an application form, contact tonight's Front of House team
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www.nantwichchoral.org.uk

or email

ncs200club@gmail.com

Acknowledgements

Nantwich Choral Society gratefully acknowledges help and support during the recent past from The Arts Council England, Cheshire East Council, Nantwich Town Council, Barclays Bank and the advertisers in our programme.

Welcome

As chairman of the Nantwich Choral Society, it is with very great pleasure that I welcome you to this evening's concert.

The Nantwich Choral Society is now enjoying its 41st season of performing choral works. From humble beginnings in 1972 the NCS has grown from what was an enthusiastic local authority evening class into one of the leading and distinguished choirs in the North West with 100 + mixed choral voices. Under the inspirational baton of our Music Director John Naylor and our accomplished accompanist Simon Russell we strive to keep the choral tradition alive by singing great choral works and by having a varied and expanding repertoire of music some familiar and some less so. We enjoy a fine choral reputation and excellent critique of our performances in the Nantwich and wider Cheshire area.

In November 2013 our season opened with a splendid performance of Handel's *Israel in Egypt* with orchestra, a work at one time more often performed than Handel's now better known work the *Messiah*.

For our Spring Concert in March we returned to Nantwich Civic Hall to perform a concert full of choral and orchestral colour which included Elgar's *Songs from the Bavarian Highlands* and Samuel Coleridge Taylor's *Hiawatha's Wedding Feast*. We were thrilled to be accompanied by a full symphony orchestra and enjoyed immensely listening to them play all of Elgar's *Enigma Variations*.

We had a very successful educational Singing Day at Malpas parish church and a fine 'Come and Sing' of Brahms' *Requiem* in Nantwich parish church attracting 170 fellow enthusiasts to enjoy the rehearsals and sing an evening performance.

We now round off the season with our final Summer Concert of this evening's fine celebration of English Church Music.

We look forward to our 42nd choral season to sing major works which include Karl Jenkins' *The Peacemakers*, Handel's *Judas Maccabeus* and Haydn's *Harmoniemesse*.

The resources required to stage these performances are considerable and we wish to acknowledge the receipt of legacies, sponsorships, grants and donations which help us to maintain and develop our musical standards, for without such generosity it would not be possible for our choral society to have the opportunity of taking part in, or for our audience to listen to, these wonderful choral works.

Elizabeth Lea

Highlights of English Church Music

Choir	O thou the central orb	Charles Wood (1866-1926)
	Lord, for thy tender mercy's sake	Richard Farrant or John Hilton
	O nata lux de lumine	Thomas Tallis (c1505-1585)
<i>Organ</i>	<i>Cornet Voluntary</i>	<i>John Travers (1703-1758)</i>
Choir	Ave verum Corpus	William Byrd (c1540-1623)
	Ave Maria	Robert Parsons (c1535-1571)
<i>Organ</i>	<i>Air and Gavotte</i>	<i>Samuel Wesley (1766-1837)</i>
Choir	The souls of the righteous	Geraint Lewis (b.1958)
	Jesu, the very thought of thee	Edward C. Bairstow (1874-1946)
	Sing my tongue	Pange lingua (plainsong)
<i>Organ</i>	<i>Toccata-Prelude on the plainsong, 'Pange Lingua'</i>	<i>Edward C. Bairstow</i>
Choir	Song of Athene	John Taverner (1944-2013)

INTERVAL

Choir	How beauteous are their feet	Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)
Choir	Like as the hart desireth the waterbrooks	Herbert Howells (1892-1983)
Organ	<i>Paeon (No.6 of Six Pieces)</i>	<i>Herbert Howells (1892-1983)</i>
Choir	Greater love hath no man	John Ireland (1879-1962)
Choir	O taste and see	Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)
	Author of Life Divine - Rhosymedre	
Organ	<i>Prelude on the Welsh Hymn Tune 'Rhosymedre'</i>	<i>Ralph Vaughan Williams</i>
Choir	Blessed be the God and Father	Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810-1876)

Nantwich Choral Society

Honorary Members: Joy Roberts, Andrew Mildinhall, Jean Atkin

Music Director: John Naylor

Accompanist: Simon Russell

Soprano

Anne Barnard
Jan Brown
Tracey Coleman
Glenda Colemere
Gail Corfield
Rita Davies
Ann Ferguson
Marlene Flannery
Kay Foster
Karen Grimwood
Margaret Harvey
Rosemary Jones
Bronwyn Kelly
Helen Kerr
Sheila Luke
Maire Pedder
Rachel Pentecost
Rachael Reeves
Debbie Rowlands
Carol Seed
Doreen Sillitoe
Sheila Swindale
Jane Tyre
Barbara Waters
Jane Whiteman

Helen Bevan
Sue Bridge
Sue Briscoe

Christine English
Joyce Foster
Sarah Gale
Janet Geeson
Cynthia Gorton
Gillian Handford
Grace Johnston
Lucy Kibble
Elizabeth McCrone
Jenny Naylor
Steph Percy
Eileen Robertson
Barbara Shone
Imogen Taylor
Wendy Wren

Alto

Susan Cooke
Frances Durkin
Fiona Field
Rachael Hendry
Lena Hogben
Cate Howell
Bev Ibbotson
Elizabeth Lea
Geraldine Leighton
Anne Nicol
Jill Oldman
Lucy Roberts
Barbara Schultz

Ros Wells
Diane Wheatley
Sarah Worth

Julie Barker
Judy Bryant
Shirley Burton
Judith Dooley
Mary Goodman
Joy Guest
Ester Harries
Marian Hay
Claire Keen
Anne Mckay
Brenda Midgley
Janet Miller
Gwyneth Rollins
Joan Shaddick
Elizabeth Tilston
Margaret Whitehurst
Kathleen Willis

Tenor

Martyn Colley
Graham Harbage
Patrick Hay
Wal Kaye
James Millar
Mike Moores
Barry Munslow

Richard Percival
Nigel Phipps
Nick Smith
Philip Trinder
Bill Vallance
Joe Watson
John Whittingham

Bass

Roger Boulton
Adrian Cope
Paul Durant
Christopher Findlay
David Foster
Glyn Griffiths
Douglas Hollinshead
David Johnston
David Jones
Martin Jones
Ron Kelley
Adrian Percy
Ray Potts
Anthony Powell
Bob Pugh
Laird Ryan
Simon Stubington
Ian Wells

Committee

OFFICERS: **Chairman:** Elizabeth Lea, **Vice Chairman 1:** Roger Boulton, **Vice Chairman 2:** Vacant, **Secretary:** Rosemary Jones, **Treasurer:** Diane Wheatley

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: **Minute Secretary:** Rachel Pentecost, **Librarian:** Bob Pugh, **Membership Secretary and Posters / Tickets:** Ester Harries, **Social Events:** Fiona Field, **Publicity:** Vacant, **Concert Manager:** Eileen Robertson

MEMBERS WITH SPECIAL ROLES: **Front of House:** Joy Guest, **Social Media:** Lucy Roberts, **Grants and Sponsorships:** Martin Jones, **Webmaster:** Nick Smith, **Ticket Revenue:** Liz McCrone, **Singing Days:** David Jones, **Public Relations:** Anne Barnard, **200 Club:** David & Grace Johnston

JOHN NAYLOR – Conductor

As conductor, singer and organist, John 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 subsequently became a professional member of the Chapel Royal Choir of St Peter ad Vincula at H.M. Tower of London and The Monteverdi Choir and Louis Halsey Singers, appearing at The Proms, The South Bank, The Aldeburgh Festival and in numerous broadcasts and recordings. He has sung in the cathedral choirs of Carlisle, Christ Church Oxford and Chester where until recently he could still be occasionally spotted on the back row!

John has been Director of The Lydian Singers since founding the choir in 1980. They are now one of the leading chamber choirs in the North West and have performed extensively in the North West, Spain, France, Italy and in most of the cathedrals in Great Britain, often returning several times by invitation.

John was appointed Music Director of Nantwich Choral Society in September 2005 for whom he has now conducted highly acclaimed performances of works in the mainstream choral repertoire including Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, Bach's *St John Passion* (in Chester Cathedral), and Monteverdi's *Vespers of 1610*, Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms*, Fauré's *Requiem*, Karl Jenkins' *The Armed Man* with Ensemble Vocal Arpège de Mâcon, Mozart's *Requiem* and Bach's *B minor Mass* with the 18th Century Concert Orchestra and in 2009 Haydn's *The Seasons* and *The Dream of Gerontius* in Chester Cathedral with the Northern Concordia Orchestra and in 2010 Handel *Coronation Anthems* and the *Dettingen Te Deum* with the 18th Century Sinfonia.

John's conducting engagements in 2011 included several performances of *Messiah*, the first performance of *Even such is Time*, a new commissioned work by Andrew Mildinhall, three performances of Fauré's *Requiem*, Rossini's *Petite Messe Solonelle*, Haydn's

Creation, performances of Motets by Poulenc, Britten and Messaien, Blackburn and Liverpool Metropolitan cathedrals with The Lydian Singers, and a memorable performance of Monteverdi's *Vespers of 1610* with the Phoenix Singers and the English Sackbutt and Cornett Ensemble.

2012 included Vaughan Williams' *Sea Symphony* and *The Lark Ascending* with the Northern Concordia Orchestra, Mozart's *Coronation Mass* and *Vespers* in Macon and Nantwich, *Messiah* with The 18th Century Sinfonia, Coventry Cathedral with The Open University Chapel Choir and with the Lydian Singers and The Lydian Ensemble works by Buxtehude, Monteverdi and Mozart followed by Bangor and Lichfield cathedrals. In June he conducted the first performance of a new chamber orchestra version of Andrew Mildinhall's *Even Such is Time* with The Lydian Singers at The Lymm Festival.

2013 included Bach's *St Matthew Passion* in Chester Cathedral with The 18th Century Sinfonia, Karl Jenkins' *The Armed Man* and Puccini's *Messe di Gloria* with Nantwich Choral Society, St Alban's, Peterborough and Coventry (Duruflé's *Requiem*) cathedrals with The Lydian Singers and Guildford Cathedral with The Open University Chapel Choir.

Plans for 2014 include Karl Jenkins' *The Peacemakers* with NCS, Exeter and Lichfield cathedrals with The Open University Chapel Choir, and a first performance of a new Andrew Mildinhall work at the summer Lymm Festival with The Lydian Singers.

SIMON RUSSELL - Organist

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 playing for visiting choirs and covering holiday periods and other absences. He is also in demand as an organ, piano and theory tutor and has many Associated Board and other pupil distinctions and diploma successes to his credit.

Since May 2014, he has been a full-time professional freelance musician and as well as being accompanist to the NCS, he is also accompanist to the Jubilate Chamber Choir, based in Cheltenham. Forthcoming engagements include a lunchtime concert in Christ Church, Oxford and two concerts in St. Alfege, Greenwich later this year. A performance of Haydn's *Creation* is scheduled for November in St Matthew's, Cheltenham. Solo organ recitals this year include Bangor and Hereford Cathedrals as well as Bath Abbey.

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

MICHAEL VERNON
photography

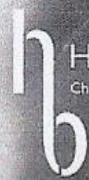
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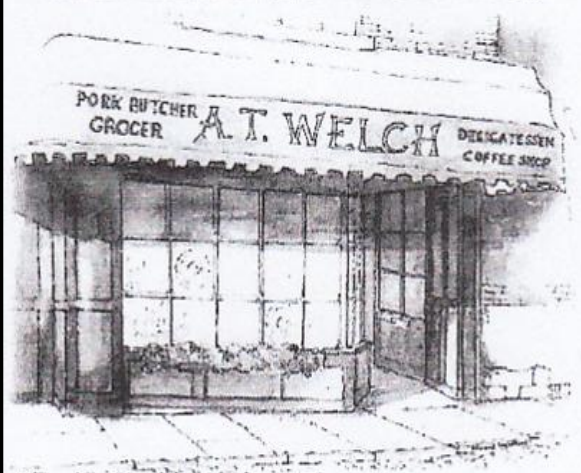
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Nantwich Choral Society – Future Events

Saturday 4 October 2014
Singing Day at St Mary's Acton

Saturday 8 November 2014
St Mary's Nantwich
with The Northern Concordia Orchestra
Karl Jenkins: The Peacemakers

Saturday 20 December 2014
St Mary's Nantwich
Family Christmas Concert

Saturday 10 January 2015
St Mary's Nantwich
Come and Sing
Rossini: Petite Messe Solenelle

Saturday 21 March 2015
St Mary's Nantwich
with The Northern Concordia Orchestra
Handel: Judas Maccabeus

Saturday 27 June 2015
St Mary's Nantwich
with Oratorio Lüdenscheid and
The Northern Concordia Orchestra
Haydn: Harmoniemesse