

Nantwich Choral Society

Edward Elgar

Sospiri

Karl Jenkins

The Peacemakers

Susan Marrs, mezzo soprano

The Northern Concordia Orchestra, leader Andrew Long

John Naylor, conductor

St Mary's Church, Nantwich

Saturday 8th November 2014, 7.30 pm

Welcome

On behalf of the Nantwich Choral Society may I welcome you most warmly to tonight's concert on the eve of Armistice Sunday. The programme has been specially chosen, mindful of the poignancy of commemorating the outbreak of the First World War.

The Peacemakers, written as recently as 2011 by the world's most famous living composer Karl Jenkins, is dedicated to all those who lost their lives during armed conflict. It has already been performed by numerous choral societies around the world. Many music lovers are familiar with Karl Jenkins' *The Armed Man* which the Nantwich Choral Society recently performed to great acclaim. *The Peacemakers* is an equally powerful piece in similar style with highly effective and tuneful settings of well-known texts by iconic Champions of Peace. It is entirely fitting for the occasion of Remembrance.

The choral society also commissioned a new arrangement of The National Anthem by John S. Benson. The orchestra will play *Sospiri*, a moving orchestral work written by Edward Elgar in the summer of 1914 and the famous poem *In Flanders Fields* will be read by Chris King, chairman of Nantwich and District British Legion.

We are delighted to be joined tonight by the fully professional Northern Concordia Orchestra and its leader Andrew Long and we also welcome back Sue Marrs, the highly acclaimed mezzo soprano, all of whom have joined with us many times before.

The Nantwich Choral Society is now in its 42nd season of performing choral works. From humble beginnings in 1972 the Local Authority evening class has now become 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.

Later this season in addition to our family Christmas carol concert with Nantwich Young Voices we plan to sing performances of Rossini's *Petite Messe Solennelle* and Handel's *Judas Maccabeus*. In the summer we will welcome a German exchange choir, Lüdenscheid Oratorio to sing 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. Long may we continue to do so.

Elizabeth Lea

Chairman

The Bells

As you enter the church for this concert the Church Bells are being rung.

The church tower houses a ring of eight bells, the heaviest of which (the tenor) is over 14 cwt. They are tuned to the key of F Major. The back (lowest sounding) four are from the original ring, cast by Rudhall of Gloucester in 1713-14. The front (highest sounding) four were cast by John Taylor when the peal was re-hung in 1922.

The tradition of English Church Bell-Ringing is such that the bells are rung a “full circle”, from a mouth up position, to mouth up, swinging first one way then the other. The clapper strikes once on each swing, first one side then the other. The bells are being rung half-muffled; a thick leather pad has been strapped to one side of the clapper so that on the first swing the bell sounds its normal loud sonorous note, that is followed on the following swing by a muted, echo sound as the leather bound side of the clapper strikes the sound bow. This is traditional on occasions like this and gives a very emotive effect.

The methods being rung are Grandsire Triples and Plain Bob Major.

Many thanks are given to the ringers who are from the local band.

Acknowledgements

Nantwich Choral Society gratefully acknowledges the support during the recent past from The Harding Trust, Cheshire East Council, Nantwich Town Council, Barclays Bank, the family of the late Peter Nurse and the advertisers in our programmes.



The National Anthem

arr. John S Benson

Please stand : The first two verses are sung by the choir and then the repeat of the first verse is sung by everyone.

Introduction

The Rev'd Canon Dr Barry Wilson, Rector of St Mary's

In Flanders Fields

John McCrae

Read by Chris King, Chairman of Nantwich and District Royal British Legion

Sospiri

Edward Elgar

Pause

The Peacemakers

Karl Jenkins

Part I

1. Blessed are the peacemakers
2. Fanfara
3. Peace, peace!
4. I offer you peace
5. Inner peace
6. Healing light: a Celtic prayer
7. Meditation: Peace is ...
8. Evening Prayer
9. Intermezzo: Solitude

Pause

Part II

10. Fiat pax in virtute tua
11. He had a dream *Elegy for Martin Luther King Jr*
12. The Dove
13. The Peace Prayer of St Francis of Assisi
14. One Song
15. Let there be justice for all
16. Dona nobis pacem
17. Anthem: Peace, triumphant peace

The Peacemakers

Part I

1 - Blessed are the Peacemakers

Blessed are the Peacemakers for they will be called the children of God.

Jesus Christ - Matthew 5: 9

Shalom. Shanti. Salam.

'Peace' in Hebrew, Hindi and Arabic

2 - Fanfara

'Peace' in various languages:

Frieden *German*

Mir *Russian*

Peace *English*

Pace *Italian*

Pax *Latin*

He ping *Mandarin*

Heddwych *Welsh*

Heiwa *Japanese*

Shanti *Hindi*

Paz *Spanish*

Paix *French*

Shalom *Hebrew*

Salam *Arabic*

Shlamah *Aramaic*

Selam *Ethiopian*

Rauha *Finnish*

Irini *Greek*

Vrede *Dutch*

Béke *Hungarian*

Fred *Swedish*

Pokój *Polish*

3 - Peace, Peace!

Peace, peace! he is not dead, he doth not sleep -

He hath awakened from the dream of life -

'Tis we, who lost in stormy visions, keep

With phantoms an unprofitable strife.

*Percy Bysshe Shelley (1792-1822), from
Elegy on the Death of John Keats*

*Shelley was considered to be one of the
greatest English Romantic poets. He met his
death by drowning off the coast of Italy.*

Shalom. Shanti. Shlama. Salam.

*'Peace' in Hebrew, Hindi, Aramaic and
Arabic*

4 - I offer you peace

I offer you peace. I offer you love. I offer you friendship. I see your beauty. I hear your need. I feel your feelings. My wisdom flows from the Highest Source. I salute that Source in you. Let us work together for unity and love ... an eye for an eye leaves the whole world blind.

*Words attributed to Mahatma Gandhi,
1869-1948*

A pioneer of non-violent civil disobedience as political protest, Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi was the leader of the Indian nationalist struggle for independence. A thinker and prolific writer on the concept of non-violence, he was assassinated in Delhi on 30 January 1948.

5 - Inner peace

We can never have peace in the world if we neglect the inner world and don't make peace with ourselves. World peace must develop out of inner peace.

Peace starts within each one of us. When we have inner peace we can be at peace with those around us.

His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama of Tibet (b 1935)

The 14th Dalai Lama (Tenzin Gyatso) is the spiritual leader of Tibetan Buddhism. Dalai Lamas are believed by followers of Buddhism to be reincarnations of previous holders of the title, a tradition dating back to the 15th century. The current Dalai Lama won the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1989 for his 'efforts for a peaceful resolution' in the struggle for Tibetan independence.

6 - Healing Light: a Celtic prayer

Deep peace of the running wave to you,
Deep peace of the flowing air to you,
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you,
Deep peace of the shining stars to you,
Deep peace of the gentle night to you,
Moon and stars pour their healing light on you,
Deep peace of Christ, the light of the world, to you,
Deep peace of Christ to you.
Amen.

Anon

7 - Meditation: Peace is ...

Peace is the fragile meeting
Of two souls in harmony.

Peace is an embrace
That protects and heals.

Peace is a reconciling
Of opposites.

Peace is rooted in love,
It lies in the heart
Waiting to be nourished,
Blossom

And flourish
Until it embraces the world.

May we know the harmony of peace.
May we sing the harmony of peace.
Until in the last of days
We rest in peace.

Terry Waite CBE (b 1939) was a special envoy to the Archbishop of Canterbury when, in January 1987, he was captured by terrorists in Beirut while attempting to secure the release of hostages. He was held captive for nearly five years.

8 - Evening Prayer

Matthew, Mark, Luke and John,
Bless this bed that I lie on.
Before I lay me down to sleep,
I pray the Lord my soul to keep.

Four corners to my bed,
Four angels there are spread;
Two at the foot, two at the head:
Four to carry me when I'm dead.

I go by sea, I go by land:
The Lord made me with his right hand.
Should any danger come to me,
Sweet Jesus Christ deliver me.

He's my branch and I'm the flower,
Pray God send me a happy hour;
And should I die before I wake,
I pray the Lord my soul to take.

Anon

9 - Intermezzo: Solitude

Solo violin & strings

Part II

10 - Fiat pax in virtute tua

Fiat pax in virtute tua et abundantia in turribus tuis.

Propter fratres meos et proximos meos loquebar pacem de te.

Psalm 122: 7-8 (English translation is shown below where it is sung)

Peace begins with a smile. If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other.

Mother Teresa (1910-97)

Mother Teresa of Calcutta founded the Missionaries of Charity in 1950. In recognition of her dedication to helping the poor and sick she was awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace and the Bharat Ratna (India's highest civilian honour). She was beatified by Pope John Paul II in 2003.

Peace be within thy walls and prosperity within thy palaces.
For my brethren and companions' sakes I will now say, Peace be within thee.

Psalm 122: 7-8

The important thing in life is the traces of love that we leave behind when we have to leave unasked and say farewell.

Albert Schweitzer, 1875-1965

Schweitzer was a renowned German theologian, philosopher and, humanitarian, and was awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1952. As an organist and musicologist he is noted for his research into the life of J S Bach.

And the true servants of the All-Merciful walk the earth with humility, and when the ignorant address them they say, "Peace".

Qur'an 25: 63

11 - He had a dream

Elegy for Martin Luther King Jr

He had a dream that all mankind could live together in peace and harmony.

He had a dream that people of different colours and creeds could live together.

He had a dream that ...

Karl Jenkins

... every valley shall be exalted, every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together.

Isaiah 40: 4-5

That was his dream. He had a dream.

Born in 1929, Martin Luther King Jr was an American clergyman who played a major role in the African-American civil rights movement, using methods of peaceful protest inspired by the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi. In 1964, aged just 35, he became the youngest person to be awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace. He was shot dead in Memphis, Tennessee, on 4 April 1968 and is remembered today as an icon in the campaign for civil rights, both in the United States and worldwide.

12 - The Dove

for Astrid May

Dove of peace fly here to find us,
Feathers softly stroking the earth.

Dove of peace so soft, so silent,
Please protect each innocent birth.

Dove of peace we reach to touch you,
Pure and white, please comfort our fears.
Spread contentment gently near us,
Spread your wings and dry all our tears.

Dove of peace fly here to find us,
Feathers caught in circles of light.
Dove of peace so soft, so silent,
Turn each day to sweet sleep each night.

Carol Barratt

13 - The Peace Prayer of St Francis of Assisi

O Lord, make me an instrument of thy
peace,
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is discord, harmony;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sorrow, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so
much seek
to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
it is in dying that we are born to eternal
life.

St Francis of Assisi was born in 1181 or 1182. A friar and preacher who founded the Franciscan Order of monks, he died in 1226 and was canonised by Pope Gregory IX two years later. Nowadays he is known as the patron saint of animals and is one of the most esteemed religious leaders in history. This text is closely associated with St Francis, but it was in fact written anonymously and first appeared in 1912 in France.

14 - One Song

No more war, ...

Karl Jenkins

... better is peace than always war, better is
peace than ever more war.

*Sir Thomas Malory (1405-71), English
writer and poet, from Le morte d'Arthur*

All religions. All this singing. One song.
Peace be with you.

*Rumi (1207-73), Persian Muslim cleric and
mystic poet*

Blessed peace, blessed peace, take away
torment and be at peace.

Please make our future a world without
war.

Give us a future that we can call our own.
Grant us a life where love and peace
surround us.

Bended knees, folded hands, listen to
prayers from many lands.

Crying for mercy and pleading for peace.
Shalom.

Sing one song, sing peace be with you.

Give us a future free from dark despair.

Pilgrims who take the light of the world to
share.

No more war, no more war.

Carol Barratt / Karl Jenkins

15 - Let there be justice for all

After climbing a great hill one finds that
there are many more hills to climb. I have
taken a moment here to rest, to steal a
view of the glorious vista that surrounds
me, to look back on the distance I have
come. But I can rest only for a moment,
for with freedom come responsibilities,
and I dare not linger, for my long walk is
not yet ended.

Let there be justice for all. Let there be
peace for all. Let there be work, bread,
water and salt for all. Let each know that
for each the body, the mind and the soul
have been freed to fulfil themselves.

Nelson Mandela (b 1918), from The Long Walk to Freedom (1995)

Nelson Mandela organised protest against South Africa's apartheid regime and was jailed for 27 years. Freed in February 1990, he won the Nobel Prize for peace in 1993 and was appointed South Africa's first black president in 1994.

16 - Dona nobis pacem

Lord give us peace.
Dona nobis pacem.

Ordinary of the Mass

The world is but one country, and mankind its citizens. We are all fruits of one tree and leaves of one branch.

Bahá'u'lláh (1817-92)

Born in Tehran, Bahá'u'lláh was the founder of the Bahá'i faith. Bahá'i teaches the unity of God, the unity of religion and the unity of humankind. Bahá'u'lláh's claim to divine revelation resulted in 40 years of persecution and imprisonment. He died within the prison city of 'Akka, Palestine (Acre in present-day Israel).

17 - Anthem: Peace, triumphant peace

Peace, triumphant peace shall reign on Earth some day.

Pray for peace and make your words echo round the world for peace one day, on Earth one day, that wondrous day when

the world has peace, glorious peace, such peace.

When will such lasting peace arrive on that wondrous day on this our Earth?

May all our paths meet up and lead to one holy place where peace shall reign in our hearts, one wondrous day when the world has peace, glorious peace, such peace.

Carol Barratt

How wonderful it is that no-one need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world..

Anne Frank (1929-45)

Anne Frank, born in Frankfurt, was a Jewish victim of Nazi persecution. Following the German occupation of the Netherlands her family went into hiding in a secret annexe at her father's office in Amsterdam. After two years they were betrayed. She kept a diary of this period which has been translated into more than 55 languages. Anne Frank died of typhus in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp.

Embrace the spirit of peace and thousands of souls around you will be saved.

St Seraphim of Sarov (1759-1833)

St Seraphim of Sarov became a monk of the Russian Orthodox Church at the age of 19. He lived as a hermit and received thousands of pilgrims. He was renowned for his ascetic life, his wisdom, gifts of healing and powers of prophecy.

Commentary

Sospiri

Edward Elgar Op. 70

Elgar wrote two major works for strings which are quite well known - the *Serenade for Strings* and the *Introduction and Allegro*. It comes as a surprise to many music lovers to discover that there is more, and in particular the short *Sospiri*. *Sospiri* is quite a late work, written in 1913 and first performed just after the outbreak of war in August 1914.

Though short, it is a major work of grave beauty, condensing years of nostalgic regret into a few minutes of music. It was written shortly after the death from cancer of Julia Worthington, an American whom the Elgars knew well, who was referred to by J.B. Yeats as "an intimate friend of the musician Elgar" and by Elgar's wife Alice as "our dear dear Pippa". Her illness and death upset Elgar and his wife deeply, and the Mahlerian intensity of *Sospiri* is something quite new in Elgar's music.

The first performance was in a promenade concert on 15th August, 1914, in a programme which otherwise reflected the enthusiasm and patriotism of the first weeks of the First World War, but *Sospiri* was a premonition of the sadness and loss to come. It was perhaps the gathering stormclouds of war that moved him to write a heartfelt, bleak adagio that would not be out of place as the slow movement of an Elgar symphony.

The Peacemakers - Karl Jenkins

Composers notes: *The Peacemakers* is a work extolling peace. One line, from Rumi (the 13th-century Persian mystic poet) sums up the ethos of the piece: 'All religions, all singing one song: Peace be with you'. Many of the 'contributors' are iconic figures that have shaped history, others are less well known. I have occasionally placed some text in a musical environment that helps identify their origin or culture; the bansuri (Indian flute) and tabla in the Gandhi, the shakuhachi (a Japanese flute associated with Zen Buddhism) and temple bells in that of the Dalai Lama, African percussion in the Mandela and echoes of the blues of the deep American South (as well as a quote from Schumann's *Träumerei* (Dreaming) in my tribute to Martin Luther King. 'Healing Light: a Celtic prayer' is just that, with uilleann pipes and bodhrán drums. I have also presented some odd combinations, such as 'monastic chant meets the ethnic' in 'Let there be justice for all' and 'Inner peace'.

Having decided on *The Peacemakers* as the textual core and title of my new work the search was on to find messengers of peace. A handful of obvious figures came to mind, figures that have changed the world, such as Gandhi, Mandela and Martin Luther King,

followed by such iconic and inspiring people as Mother Teresa and Anne Frank. Having sourced suitable and pithy text from these the net was cast to find other 'peacemakers'. I had been aware of Albert Schweitzer as a boy, in part because my organist father had recordings of him playing Bach, and I had previously set the Persian mystic poet, Rumi, in my *Stabat Mater*. I felt I needed something from the Abrahamic religions, so there are words from Christ, the Qur'an, Judaism and St Seraphim of Sarov (a Russian Orthodox monk), while St Francis of Assisi is included by association. I also quote from the Old Testament Book of Isaiah in my homage to Martin Luther King, as he did in his 'I have a dream' speech. English poets Shelley and Malory are heard, as is Bahá'u'lláh, the founder of the Bahá'í faith. Carol Barratt added further text with the odd sentence from me. Some anonymous traditional text has also been included. I feel privileged that Terry Waite CBE has contributed some wonderful words, especially written for *The Peacemakers*.

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NORTHERN CONCORDIA ORCHESTRA

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Sum Won	Bass
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Annabel Nielsen	Piano
Simon Russell	Organ

NORTHERN CONCORDIA ORCHESTRA

The orchestra is Nantwich Choral Society's own fully professional orchestra which is convened from some of the NW's leading players, most of whom themselves perform regularly with the region's famous orchestras based in Manchester, Liverpool and Leeds. It is brought together on an ad hoc basis depending on the orchestration of the works to be performed.

Today's Leader is Andy Long who is making another very welcome return to Nantwich.

Andy is Associate Leader of the Orchestra of Opera North.

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. He also conducts The Open University Chapel Choir.

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* and *St Matthew Passion* (both 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, Vaughan Williams' *Sea Symphony* and *The Lark Ascending*, Haydn's *The Seasons* and *The Dream of Gerontius* in Chester Cathedral, Coleridge Taylor's

Hiawatha and Elgar's *Enigma Variations* with the Northern Concordia Orchestra, and Handel's *Coronation Anthems* and the *Dettingen Te Deum* with the 18th Century Sinfonia.

Plans for 2015 include Handel's *Judas Maccabeus*, Haydn's *Harmoniemesse* and Duruflé's *Requiem* with NCS, Tewkesbury Abbey, Brecon Cathedral and The Lymm Festival with The Lydian Singers, and Ely and Ripon cathedrals with OUCC.

SUSAN MARRS - Mezzo soprano

Susan graduated from Trinity College of Music, London, after winning The Ricordi Opera Prize and The Trinity College Singing Department Prize.

Susan works extensively as a concert soloist and her wide oratorio repertoire includes performances of Elgar's major works, Verdi's *Requiem*, Dvorak's *Stabat Mater*, Mozart's *C Minor Mass*, Bach's *Mass in B Minor* and *St. Matthew Passion*, Rossini's *Petite Messe Solennelle* and *Stabat Mater*, Prokofiev's *Alexander Nevsky* and Karl Jenkins *The Armed Man*.

Susan enjoyed twelve years as a member of the Extra Chorus at The Royal Opera House, Covent Garden and performances included Wagner's *Parsifal*, Verdi's *Simon Boccanegra*, Britten's *Peter Grimes* and Mussorgsky's *Boris Godunov*. Susan has also sung for English National Opera in their production of *The Pearlfishers*.

Sue sings with "London Voices" under the direction of Terry Edwards and Ben Parry, and has participated in numerous concerts and recordings of works by Bach, Stravinsky, Pierre Boulez, John Tavener, Sir Michael Tippett and Sir Paul McCartney. Film score recordings have included *Star Wars* and *Harry Potter* conducted by John Williams, *The Lord of the Rings* conducted by Howard Shore and *The Hobbit*.

2014 season has included performances of Mozart's *C Minor Mass* in London, Elgar's *Sea Pictures* with Cheshire Sinfonia, Vaughan Williams's *Dona Nobis Pacem* and Elgar's *Fallen Heroes* in Liverpool Anglican Cathedral with Manchester Camerata and Bach's *Magnificat* for Edinburgh Bach Society.

Susan lives in Nantwich and is a welcome and regular soloist with Nantwich Choral Society. She is a Fellow of Trinity College, London.

MICHAEL VERNON
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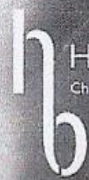
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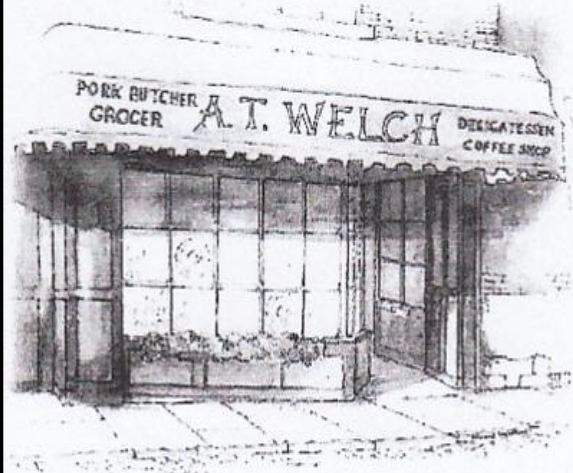
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Nantwich Choral Society – Future Events

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 Solennelle

Saturday 21 March 2015

St Mary's Nantwich

Handel: Judas Maccabeus

Saturday 27 June 2015

St Mary's Nantwich

with Oratorio Lüdenscheid and
The Northern Concordia Orchestra

Haydn: Harmoniemesse

Organ Recital

with Simon Russell

St Andrew's Church, Bedford Street, Crewe

13th December 2014, 7.30 pm. Admission £5.00