



### 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 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 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.



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](mailto:enquiries@nantwichchoral.org.uk)

Nantwich Choral Society is a Registered Charity No 516572.



**Nantwich Choral Society**

## Concert Dates and Events

**2014 - 2015**

**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 2014 - 2015

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 Solenne***

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 Lüdenschaid and  
The Northern Concordia Orchestra  
***Haydn: Harmoniemesse***



### 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.