



Autumn 2019

Editor: Toby Hooper (T)

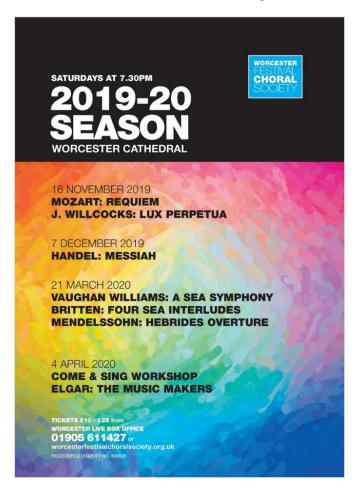
CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

Here we are, another Summer coming to a close which means our next season is upon us! I hope that you are as excited as I am at our forthcoming programme. We also will welcome Samuel Hudson as our new Director of Music. Many of us met Sam at our Come and Sing in April where he skilfully took us though our paces with Beethoven's *Mass in C*.

We will kick off our season with Mozart's *Requiem*, which we will perform alongside Jonathan Willcocks' *Lux Perpetua*. This continues the theme of 'something old and something new'. Many of us have sung the *Requiem* a number of times, but I have to say I never tire of the beauty of the piece, and still find various aspects very challenging. *Lux Perpetua* is totally new to me. Jonathan, obviously no stranger to us, is hoping to attend one of our rehearsals in November so that he can talk to us and explain how the piece came to be written. I will also have some CD's for sale of Jonathan's music which includes the *Lux Perpetua*. These will be at a discounted rate of £8, where £1 of each sale will go to a charity which supports opportunities for young people to sing. Jonathan is unable to attend the concert as he will be conducting elsewhere that evening.

As usual we will be performing Handel's *Messiah* on 7 December and it is confirmed that the Chorus has been invited to sing in the Cathedral Christmas Concert on Saturday 14 December (details to be announced later). In the Spring we will return with Vaughan Williams' *A Sea Symphony*.

As you can see, an exciting programme for us all in Sam's first year with us. So as usual I ask you to go forth and sell tickets! There is nothing that gives us more pleasure than to perform to a full nave. A full nave also puts a smile on our Treasurer's face! Following the successes of last year's sales, I am delighted to say that David



Norledge (our Treasurer) feels comfortable in holding subscriptions at £125 for another year.

At this point I normally thank someone for their hard work, which often goes unnoticed. I would like to thank Jim Norris, who masterminded the link we now have with Côte Restaurant, not only do they give us a valuable sponsorship, but also WFCS members enjoy great deals with them. Jim was helped by Michelle Whitefoot, who also is a star amongst us. Michelle tirelessly does our marketing, co-ordinating Facebook and Twitter, also arranging interviews for me with the BBC, contacting all the press to ensure the best coverage possible as well as working with Anne Renshaw on our superb, professional programmes. Michelle never stops, and does it all with a lovely air of calm!

I have to say I still thoroughly enjoy being a part of this wonderful choir. It really is a pleasure for me each week to turn up to rehearsal. Other than making music, I have always enjoyed the social aspect of being in a choir. We have members from all parts of the county (and a couple like me from 'over the hills in Herefordshire'!) and from all walks of life. Singing together as members of the Worcester Festival Choral Society is unique. No two choruses are the same, and I like to think we are really rather

special, so thank you one and all!



Ben Cooper (B)



News and updates for Chorus members

Autumn 2019

Editor: Toby Hooper (T)

MESSAGE FROM THE **MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY**

Important: Please note that this 'from the Membership Secretary' section of this issue of the *Choral Chronicle* REPLACES the Annual Members Return / Welcome Letter which has gone out in August in previous years. Please find below all you need to know for the new term in September. <u>More committee messages from page 14.</u>

We intend to continue the tradition which we started last year of incorporating the Annual Members Return / Welcome Letter into this issue of the Choral Chronicle. As we prepare to welcome back returning members and to welcome afresh new members for Season 2019-20 I set out below what you now need to know which the Annual Letter previously contained.

Rehearsals: I have already emailed this information to you but just to reiterate, the first rehearsal for the 2019-20 Season will take place in the Cathedral at 7:30 PM on Monday 09 September 2018. All rehearsal and concert dates and the dates of other events such as the "Come & Sing" can be found on the Members' Page of our website https://www.wfcs.online/members

There are occasions, particularly near Christmas, when the Cathedral will not be available for rehearsals; these will be clearly marked in the Rehearsal Schedule updated on the website. As usual on these occasions rehearsals will be held in St Andrew's Church, Pump Street.

The entrance to the Cathedral for rehearsals is via College Green, the cloister, and the "Miserimus" door which is in the north-west corner of the cloister, by the shop. Here the registers are laid out and the weekly raffle is made available. Please participate in the raffle which is a significant fundraiser for WFCS.



Register: Please make sure that you sign the register each week to enable me to keep track of your attendance. Members who miss more than three rehearsals will require the Musical Director's permission to sing in the concert and may be required to take a pre-concert audition.

Collecting music: Please arrive early for the first rehearsal to allow enough time to register and to collect your music. You will need your Chorus Number which can be found beside your name on the register. To reduce queuing time, please make sure that you know your Chorus Number before joining the queue for the music.

Leavers: If you do not intend to return to WFCS this autumn please let me know before the end of August: (email <u>rees.sallyjane@gmail.com</u>) We already have a waiting list and do not want to turn away potential new members unnecessarily. Please remember that leavers should return WFCS concert folders to the Librarian Jenny Brumhead (A). If you have paid a deposit this will be refunded.

Auditions: Members are required to re-audition every 4 years and I will shortly be contacting those of you whose auditions are due this year just to give you a heads-up. However, I will be unable to arrange anything further until after Sam has had a few weeks to settle in.

Changes of contact details: Please will members keep me informed about changes of contact details or data preferences: email address as above. It is essential that I have an up to date email address for you; in the unlikely event that a rehearsal should be cancelled e.g. because of bad weather, I would use this to contact you.

Keeping you informed: Please keep in mind that we post useful information for members, including Musical Director's notes and updates about rehearsals, on the Chorus Information Page of our website: address above.



Sally Rees (S)



News and updates for Chorus members

Autumn 2019

Editor: Toby Hooper (T)

WELCOME SAM HUDSON!

This September we are thrilled to begin a new era of Worcester Festival Choral Society's illustrious history, with the appointment of our new Conductor and Music Director – and the incoming Director of Music of Worcester Cathedral – Sam Hudson.



It may have felt like a long wait since Sam's selection was first announced by Worcester Cathedral back in December, but his links with both WFCS and music in our region have been well underway ever since.

Many of us had the opportunity to meet and be conducted by him at our highly successful 'Come & Sing' Beethoven's *Mass in C* in April. He also led the Three Choirs Festival Youth Choir in a critically-acclaimed performance of Karl Jenkins' *The Armed Man* in Gloucester Cathedral at the end of July, as part of the Three Choirs Festival.

And, as you can read in our article on page 6, Sam has been planning for his role as Artistic Director of the renowned Three Choirs Festival when it returns to Worcester in 2020.

Sam comes to us from Blackburn, where he has been Director of Music at Blackburn Cathedral since 2011.

During that time he was also Artistic Director for The Friends of Blackburn Cathedral Music, and worked regularly for the BBC as Organist and Director of the Daily Service.

Prior to that he held posts at St Sepulchre-without-Newgate, London and All Saints' Church, Hertford.

He began his career as Organ Scholar at Girton College, Cambridge and subsequently at Wells Cathedral.

Sam said of his appointment to Worcester: "It is a privilege to come to a cathedral City and region so steeped in musical heritage while also home to living music-making of the highest standards."

We are looking forward to singing with you Sam!





News and updates for Chorus members

Autumn 2019

Editor: Toby Hooper (T)

OTHER CATHEDRAL MUSIC DEPARTMENT NEWS

The close association between WFCS and members of the Cathedral Music Department encourages the Editor to gather the following information. Some aspects of this will be less familiar to you than others.

During the year the department has run three 'Be A Chorister For An Afternoon' recruitment events, and will be welcoming a number of new boy and girl choristers into the Cathedral Choir in September. It is the Department's wish to expand its outreach and recruitment programme in future years.



Sam Hudson joins the Cathedral as Director of Music (aka Organist). He will be officially installed at the Sung Eucharist in the Cathedral on Sunday 8 September.

We profile Sam on page 3, welcoming him as our Director and Conductor. Some of us have already had the pleasure of working with Sam at the enjoyable Come & Sing Beethoven *Mass in C* in the Cathedral on 6 April.

Nick Freestone took the role of Acting Director of Music during the summer term. He will resume his role as Assistant Director. We welcome him back to WFCS to continue as our accompanist. He accompanied the Beethoven Come & Sing.



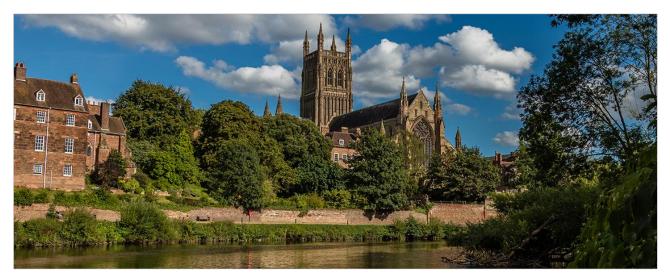


Richard Cook frequently supported WFCS while Sub-Assistant Organist at the Cathedral. After four years at Worcester, first as Organ Scholar, Richard has moved to St Edmundsbury Cathedral as Assistant Director of Music.

Ed Jones has been appointed Sub-Assistant Organist in place of Richard Cook. The role involves directing the Voluntary Choir as well as principal accompanist to the Cathedral Choir when the girl choristers are singing. Ed is appointed from Bradford Cathedral. He has held organ scholarships at Exeter and Blackburn Cathedrals. He is a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists and has a Doctorate in composition from the University of Aberdeen.

Ollie Chatham has left the Cathedral to begin his studies in primary education at Roehampton University. Ollie was Bass Choral Scholar, and a valued member of WFCS. He was a member of the Worcester contingent at this year's Three Choirs Festival.

Joshua Roebuck was appointed Organ Scholar in January 2019 while a fourth year student at Birmingham Conservatoire. He moves to St David's Cathedral as Organ Scholar in September. He was a member of the Worcester contingent at this year's Three Choirs Festival.





CHORAL CHRONICLE News and updates for Chorus members

Autumn 2019 Editor: Toby Hooper (T)

GLOUCESTER THREE CHOIRS FESTIVAL 2019



Adrian Partington directed a hugely successful Gloucester Three Choirs Festival between 26 July and 3 August. This was the 50th anniversary year of Adrian's first appearance at a Three Choirs Festival, as a Worcester Cathedral Chorister at the Worcester Three Choirs Festival 1969. Christopher Robinson, then Organist of Worcester Cathedral was, in the style of the time, Conductor-in-Chief.

Adrian wrote in his Artistic Director's Welcome in this year's Festival Programme: "Our aim is always to honour the great tradition of the Three Choirs Festival by presenting masterpieces of the choral-orchestral repertoire, whilst offering challenges by performing musical rarities and premieres". With the three Cathedral Choirs, the Festival Chorus comprising the three cities' chorus contingents, the Philharmonia Orchestra, the many distinguished soloists, and other choral and instrumental groupings, Adrian most certainly achieved this aim. The Festival Chorus sang at the Opening Service, and, in concert, Berlioz, Verdi, Joubert, Handel, Vaughan Williams and Beethoven. The Handel was Mendelssohn's arrangement of *Israel in Egypt* in its UK concert premiere. The Vaughan Williams was the *Sea Symphony* which WFCS will be singing in Spring Term 2020.



The WFCS contingent at Three Choirs Festival Gloucester 2019 comprised:
 Soprano: Joanna Atkins, Amanda Bath, Sarah Bullock, Joanna Clutterbuck, Karen Gorman, Frances Kelsey, Satyam Makoieva, Alison Marlow, Sue White, Michelle Whitefoot and Mela Whitling.
 Alto: Susie Arnold, Lesley Bellerby, Julie Greenwood, Mary Kenchington and Carol Sandys.
 Tenor: Edgar Green, Wynne Harries, Stuart Jones, Leon Joynes and David Norledge.
 Bass: Ollie Chatham, Ben Cooper, Stephen Greenwood, Steve Phillipson and Joshua Roebuck.



News and updates for Chorus members

Autumn 2019

Editor: Toby Hooper (T)

... and WORCESTER THREE CHOIRS FESTIVAL 2020! Saturday 25 July - Saturday 1 August 2020

Sam Hudson has launched the Worcester Three Choirs Festival 2020, of which he is Artistic Director.

Sam describes the 2020 Festival as shaped by the concept of journey and the 400th anniversary of the sailing of the Mayflower. He takes the opportunity to feature music by American composers including Horatio Parker, the first American composer to feature at a Three Choirs Festival, in 1899. That was Ivor Atkins' first Festival. At that Festival Elgar premiered the *Enigma Variations*.

The opening concert on Saturday 25 July will include Copland's *Fanfare for the Common Man* and Elgar's *The Music Makers*. The concluding concert on Saturday 1 August will include, in Beethoven's 250th anniversary year, his *Calm Sea and Prosperous Voyage*, Vaughan Williams' *Songs of Travel* and Walton's *Belshazzar's Feast*. This concert will feature the young British Bass-Baritone Bozidar Smiljanic who, your Editor notes, is distinguished not only by his musical ability but by having given up a career in the law for a career in music.

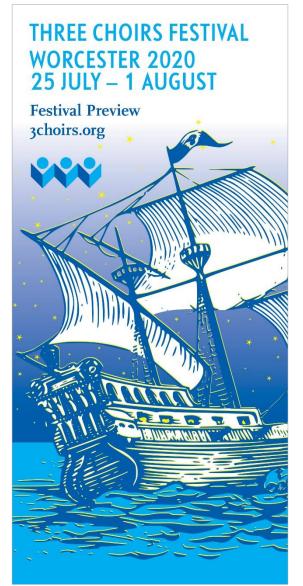
Other significant events in the 2020 Festival calendar include an ESO double bill on the morning of Wednesday 29 July 2020 featuring Philip Sawyers' *Mayflower on the Sea of Time* and Beethoven's *Seventh Symphony*. (Elsewhere in this issue of the *Choral Chronicle* we draw your attention to the world premiere of *Mayflower on the Sea of Time* in Worcester Cathedral at 7:30pm on Saturday 25 April 2020).

The Three Cathedral Choirs concert will present the Bach *Magnificat* and the *Buxtehude Membra Jesu Nostril* at an afternoon concert on Friday 31 July. A significant feature of each Three Choirs Festival is the Evensong which the three Cathedral Choirs sing together. This is usually broadcast live on BBC Radio 3. In a striking innovation at this service in 2020 which will deservedly attract national attention Girl Choristers will sing with the adult Cathedral Choirs.

In recent years successive Three Choirs Festival Artistic Directors have provided a platform for youth. The Three Choirs Festival now supports a Participation Manager facilitating this objective. The Festival is, as Sam nicely puts it, "mindful of those more recently embarked on their musical journeys." Look out for particular events in pursuit of this objective in the full programme when published. For now, an enticing taster is that there will be particular concerts and events for families all week, including the world premiere of a first live concert adventure for *Gaspard the Fox*, the collaboration of Jonathan Dove, composer well known to WFCS, Zeb Soanes, author (and broadcaster), and James Mayhew, illustrator, with orchestra-in-residence the Philharmonia.

With WFCS Chairman Ben Cooper as Festival Chairman, and Sam Hudson as Artistic Director, we have much to look forward to at the Worcester Three Choirs Festival 2020.

More programme details overleaf and at - www.3choirs.org





News and updates for Chorus members

Autumn 2019

Editor: Toby Hooper (T)



'COME & SING' ELGAR'S THE MUSIC MAKERS WITH WFCS

Put the date in your diary and tell your friends – on 4th April 2020 our annual WFCS 'Come & Sing' workshop day will focus on Sir Edward Elgar's inspirational choral classic, *The Music Makers*.

More than 100 amateur singers are expected to take part in the annual workshop, which will take place in the inspiring Worcester Cathedral Nave. It's open to all, not only WFCS members!

Registration will be from 9.30am for a 10:15 start, and the day concludes by 5pm after an informal afternoon performance which singers' family and friends can attend free of charge.

The price of £20 (adults) and £10 (students) includes a vocal score for the day and free tea and coffee. You can also treat yourself to a slice of cake and even book a home-made packed lunch!

Online booking, and a downloadable information leaflet with postal booking form, will be available on our website from January 2020.





News and updates for Chorus members

Autumn 2019

Editor: Toby Hooper (T)

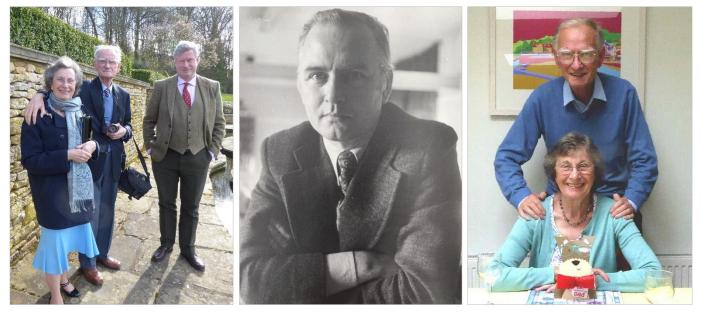
TRIBUTE TO TOM NARDONE: 1 FEBRUARY 1936 - 13 APRIL 2019

The following is based on the Tribute which Peter Nardone gave for Tom, his father – who sang Tenor with WFCS for 5 years – at Tom's funeral at the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Kempsey, on 29 April 2019.

Tom, with Helen his wife, sang in WFCS from January 2014 to March 2018. They had moved from Renfrewshire to Kempsey after Peter became Director of Music at Worcester Cathedral in 2012. Tom sang Tenor. Helen sang Soprano. Their daughter Linda sings with the Salisbury Choral Society.

Tom's father Pierre arrived in Scotland as a refugee from Belgium in 1916. Tom was one of eight children born to Pierre and his wife Grace. The marriage certificate of Pierre and Grace identifies the profession of Tom's Italian grandfather as Musician.

After gaining the Dux medal at school (academic top of the school in Scotland) Tom went to Glasgow University and gained a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering. During this time, at the age of 20, Tom met Helen and they remained together for nearly 63 years, married for 58.



During Tom's university course he undertook a placement in London working for the engineering group Sperrys involved in the manufacture of gyroscopes. His technical expertise took him after graduation to work on the construction of the Hunterston power station near West Kilbride in Ayrshire, where he and Helen set up home together. Then the profession of school teaching called him to study for teacher training at Jordan Hill College, Glasgow. Most of Tom's teaching career was as department head, teaching Physics in Johnstone High School. This at its height had over 2000 pupils and a physics department which alone was nearly in double figures. Early retirement through ill-health in his late 50s opened up opportunities to develop interests in art, music and photography.

Tom returned to Johnstone High School to study Art A Level, taking grade A. Tom had long been interested in music. During his placement in London in his University course he studied the clarinet with Stephen Waters, then principal clarinetist of the BBC Symphony Orchestra. In retirement Tom settled particularly on the violin. He played many symphonies and large orchestral works with the St James Orchestra in Paisley and also joined the Glasgow Caledonian Fiddle Orchestra. Tom always maintained a deep technical appreciation of photography, specialising in monochrome photography and photographic development. We illustrate this Tribute with a monochrome self-portrait and a colour self-portrait with Helen. Tom attended meetings of the Paisley Photographic Society on Friday evenings for 50 years. On the move South in 2013 the Society honoured Tom with life membership.



News and updates for Chorus members

Autumn 2019

Editor: Toby Hooper (T)

We in WFCS recall Tom as a kindly presence of eminent distinction too modest to disclose the achievements which it is good now to record in his memory here. In doing this we also record our condolences to Helen, Linda and Peter.

In the course of Tom's funeral service Stephen Tilton, piano, and Kate Fawcett, violin, played the Scots Fiddle Air arranged by Peter setting, for meditation, words of Robert Burns. Peter in his Tribute spoke of the warmth of welcome which Tom and Helen experienced in Worcestershire, in Kempsey at St Mary's and at Tom's art group, and in WFCS. Peter concluded his Tribute in notable words which he believes "as apt for a photographer as any other. In the total blackout of the darkroom with just the dim red safety light glowing we read, as the photograph develops: 'For now we see through a glass darkly, but then face to face'. Amen".

THE PROTEUS ENSEMBLE: ELGAR PART SONGS PROJECT

Stephen Shellard, Senior Lay Clerk at the Cathedral, founded the Proteus Ensemble in 2013 as a group of professional singers drawn from all parts of the UK.

You may have come across their CD of music and readings for Remembrance, "Serenity, Courage, Wisdom", which they premiered at Worcester Three Choirs Festival 2014. Named after the Greek sea-god Proteus, the group takes its musical raison d'être from the adjective "protean" which means "versatile" or "capable of assuming many forms".

At the Elgar Festival on Saturday 1 June 2019 Proteus performed a concert of sacred and secular music by Elgar. Proteus would like to record the beauty of these works in appropriate 21st-century listening format. In order to complete this activity, Proteus requires a level of contribution for which it is asking for public subscription.

The composer and arranger Donald Fraser described the concert performance as "absolutely stunning". He says: "By helping to fund and support a CD of these artists we all can



share in this true "Spirit of Delight" You will recognise that the reference is to words which Elgar himself wrote as the heading to his *Second Symphony*: "Rarely, rarely, comest though, spirit of delight".

Andrew Keener, international acclaimed independent recording producer, said: "Over some forty years of producing recordings – among them a (for me!) gratifyingly large amount of Elgar's music – I cannot recall a more beautiful, polished, understanding and idiomatic account of this music. I came away from the concert convinced that to miss the opportunity to set down "on disc" these musicians' work would be to rob the Elgar discography of something special". He has offered to produce and edit a recording.

If you would be interested in helping to fund this initiative, please get in touch with Stephen Shellard on 07540 633590 or by email <u>stephenkshellard@googlemail.com</u>. Visit their website at <u>http://www.proteusensemble.net/</u>





Autumn 2019

Editor: Toby Hooper (T)

THE BELLRINGERS

It may ring a bell with you (apologies) that we featured in the Spring 2019 Choral Chronicle an informative article by Mark Regan, Ringing Master on the Worcester Cathedral bellringers.

As I hoped, this attracted much appreciation among members. The bellringers are also welcome advertisers in our concert programmes, for example the striking "Ring out wild bells to the wild sky" motto and the image of the floodlit Cathedral in the Elijah programme. So I asked Mark to update us on recent activity. He writes:

On Saturday 29 June the bellringers travelled to York and successfully rang a peal on the Minster's magnificent bells. 5007 changes of Stedman Cinques were performed in four hours and seven minutes.

There is a friendly rivalry between York and Worcester over who has the best ring of bells. Both peals were cast in the 1920s at Loughborough in the golden years of English bellfounding. Ours are best!



The following Saturday, our young bellringers travelled to Liverpool to take part in the ninth annual national youth bellringing contest called Ringing World National Youth Contest (RWNYC).

24 teams entered the contest. We came 8th overall, and 5th out of 19 for 'call change' category. Ringing took place in several towers around the city. The highlight of the day was the opportunity to ring at the Cathedral - the world's heaviest ring of bells.

Normally two people are required to ring the tenor bell which weighs over four tonnes. It was a fabulous day and our young ringers returned home with memories which will last a lifetime.

The Editor adds: I recommend the RWNYC as a good Google. And well done Worcester Cathedral's young bellringers! Toby Hooper (Editor) (T)



CALL FOR AN 8FT CHRISTMAS TREE!

Each December for the last two years, WFCS has taken part in Worcester Cathedral's popular Christmas Tree Festival in the Cloisters as a chance to raise our profile and concert interest ... and we'll be there again this year.

This was made possible by the kind donation of a spare 6ft artificial tree from Sue White (S), and the organisation and creativity of Claire Horacek (S) and friends.

This year we are considering a taller tree, to make an even bigger impact. So we are asking whether any Chorus member has spare 8ft tall pref. artificial tree that we could use? (max height 8ft, max width 3ft). If so, please see Claire Horacek or Michelle Whitefoot (S) during a September rehearsal.

More news on decorations for it later in the term. Thank you!



News and updates for Chorus members

Autumn 2019

Editor: Toby Hooper (T)

MAYFLOWER 2020

In the Spring 2019 issue of the *Choral Chronicle* we invited you to "Get On Board For Mayflower 2020!". We now provide some more detail.

The world premiere performance of Philip Sawyers' *Mayflower on the Sea of Time* will take place in Worcester Cathedral on Saturday 25 April 2020 at 7:30 PM.

This is a major Cantata, of some 54 minutes in performance, for SATB chorus, Symphony Orchestra, and soprano and baritone soloists. The work reflects upon the issues which the pilgrims faced, many of which are understandably relevant today. The project is generously supported by the Worcestershire Community Foundation and Worcester City Council.

The chorus will comprise students and teachers from Worcestershire secondary schools and higher education. The orchestra will be the English Symphony Orchestra (ESO), to whom Philip Sawyers is composer laureate. Neil Ferris will conduct.

The libretto uses poetry and original texts and includes a musical reference to Thomas Tomkins, Master of Music at Worcester Cathedral in 1620.

The particular focus of the work connecting Worcestershire is Worcestershire's Pilgrim Father Edward Winslow. He was born in Droitwich, educated at the King's School, Worcester, and his family lived at Kempsey. He was to become Governor of Plymouth Colony three times. He was one of those who signed the Mayflower Compact. He acted as a special envoy between the Colony and the English Parliament. He is largely credited with establishing "Thanksgiving".



Edward and his wife Susannah were the first couple to be married in the new colony, each having been widowed in the first harsh winter of 1620-21 following the voyage. Their son Josiah went on to become Governor of the colony.

The concert on 25 April 2020 will also include Copland's Fanfare for the Common Man, Vaughan Williams' Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis, and Copland's Appalachian Spring. Kenneth Woods, ESO's Artistic Director and Principal Conductor, will conduct these pieces.

Tickets will go on sale in September.

Applications to sing in the chorus for *Mayflower in the Sea of Time* at its premiere, with the possibility of being invited to sing again when the work is performed at Worcester Three Choirs Festival on 29 July 2020, are invited from secondary schools able to commit at least 12 students from Year 8 (as at September 2019) and above, and from students in higher education. Many are already signed up. Further details about the project are available from Anne Renshaw (S) at <u>annerenshaw@me.com</u>

We record on page 17 of this issue that Worcester Cathedral will be marking Mayflower 2020 with a Conference "The Mayflower: Faith and freedom" to be held over two days on Friday 17 and Saturday 18 April 2020. Details of this significant Conference will be posted on the Cathedral website.



News and updates for Chorus members

Autumn 2019

Editor: Toby Hooper (T)

WIN ONE OF 5 PRE-CONCERT DINNERS FOR 2 AT CÔTE WORCESTER

Say 'yes' to the Côte Prize Draw when booking WFCS tickets online, for a chance to win!



Top: Côte Brasserie in Worcester High Street Bottom: Emma Morgan, manager of Côte Worcester, with WFCS chairman Ben Cooper in the restaurant

As announced in the Spring issue of *Choral Chronicle*, Côte Brasserie Restaurant in Worcester is continuing as Worcester Festival Choral Society's official hospitality sponsor for our upcoming 2019-20 concert season.

This means they are still running their amazing, exclusive Prize Draw offer for anyone who buys their WFCS concert tickets via our online <u>TicketSource booking page</u> this season... **giving five lucky entrants per concert the chance to win a three-course Prestige Set Menu dinner for two** at the Worcester restaurant, including a Kir Royale or soft drink per person!

To enter, simply opt in to the Côte Prize Draw when booking your WFCS 2019-20 season concert tickets via our website. The Prize Draw opt-in box appears on-screen at the point of ticket purchase, along with full details and Terms & Conditions. Winners are drawn and notified five days before each concert.

Côte Restaurants are inspired by the brasseries of Paris, offering relaxed all-day dining and serving authentic French classics made from quality, fresh ingredients. The Worcester restaurant is located in the High Street close to the Elgar statue, just seconds from the Cathedral (https://www.cote.co.uk/brasserie/worcester/).

So please spread the word about this brilliant offer, and use it yourself! Good luck and 'Bon Appétit'!

EXCLUSIVE CHORUS OFFER: <u>HURRY</u> TO CLAIM YOUR COMPLIMENTARY BOTTLE OF WINE WHEN DINING AT CÔTE!

There are just a few weeks left to take advantage of another special offer kindly arranged by Côte Worcester for WFCS chorus members...



Until 30th September 2019, Côte is offering our members a complimentary bottle of wine when two or more (max 8) dine in their Worcester restaurant from their à la carte menu, pre-booking via the special link below.

NB: TO REDEEM THIS OFFER, YOU <u>MUST PRE-BOOK</u> <u>USING THE EXCLUSIVE WFCS LINK BELOW</u> (YOU CANNOT CLAIM IT WITHOUT THIS). EITHER BOOK ONLINE, OR QUOTE THE CODE BY PHONE:

CLICK HERE TO REQUEST LINK FROM WFCS MARKETING OFFICER

Terms & Conditions: Offer valid until 30/09/19 at Côte Worcester only. One complimentary bottle of Maison l'Aiglon Chardonnay or Chemin de Marquiere Merlot when two or more (max 8) dine from its à la carte menu and order a minimum of a main course.



News and updates for Chorus members

Autumn 2019

Editor: Toby Hooper (T)

WE INVITE YOU TO SUPPORT WFCS...

VIA THE WORCESTER COMMUNITY LOTTERY ...

Lots of our members and friends are already supporting us through the Worcester Community Lottery – our thanks to all of them! If YOU decide to play, here's how you can help WFCS at the same time.

As announced in your Spring *Choral Chronicle*, Worcester City Council has launched the Worcester Community Lottery, helping local charities with a donation from every ticket bought... and Worcester Festival Choral Society is one of the charities that is already benefiting from it.

WHAT IS IT?

- Worcester Community Lottery is a weekly online lottery.
- Tickets are purchased online at <u>www.worcesterlottery.org</u>
- There is a top prize of £25,000 if 6 consecutive numbers are matched, £2,000 if are matched, etc
- The average odds of winning a prize are estimated at 50:1.
- The draw takes place every Saturday night at 8pm

HOW IS MONEY RAISED FOR LOCAL CAUSES?

- Every ticket costs £1, of which 50p goes to your chosen good cause and a further 10p goes to others
- Minimum purchase is 1 month (5 weeks) of tickets ie £5 spend
- The average return for charities participating is £2,000 per annum, so it's a very worthwhile opportunity to help us continue to stage our wonderful concerts!
- So if you or your friends do take part we hope that you will choose Worcester Festival Choral Society as the charity you want to benefit!



HOW TO PLAY

- 1. Buy your tickets at www.worcesterlottery.org
- 2. <u>Choose WFCS from the</u> <u>list of charities you wish</u> <u>to support</u>
- Check the winning numbers online each Saturday, 8pm

Thank you and GOOD LUCK!

AND VIA **AMAZON...**

BUYING ONLINE? USE OUR AMAZON LINK TO BENEFIT WFCS

If you should choose to use Amazon when shopping online at any time, please may we suggest that you do so using our special WFCS link?

WFCS receives measurable financial benefit each year by this means, as Amazon donates 10% of the value of your purchase to the Society, at no cost to you.

To shop on Amazon and donate to WFCS, copy and paste this link into your browser: <u>https://amzn.to/2cRSuDN</u>

or visit https://www.wfcs.online/getting-involved where you can also find the same special WFCS Amazon link.

(We are also looking into adding WFCS to the 'Amazon Smile' charity list – but meanwhile, using the above link achieves the same donation effect!)







Autumn 2019

Editor: Toby Hooper (T)

MORE IMPORTANT MESSAGES...

FROM THE **TREASURER**

I am again able to hold subscriptions at their previous rate of £125.00 for the new season.

To save time and expense, I encourage members to pay their subscriptions online.

You are welcome to continue to pay by handing a cheque to me at rehearsal, but if you can pay online please quote the WFCS account number 01268312 and sort code 39-99-90 with the reference of WFCS Sub.

The address and name of WFCS's bank won't be needed, but for the sake of completeness it's Lloyds at The Cross, Worcester. You do not need to state your own name because the name on the payer's account comes up on the online statements so I know the identity of the paying member.

Please ask me at rehearsal any subscription questions you may have. And please heed the Chairman's ticket sales call in his Welcome!



David Norledge (T)



More scenes from our memorable March 2019 performance of Mendelssohn's Elijah



News and updates for Chorus members

Autumn 2019

Editor: Toby Hooper (T)

FROM THE SOCIAL SECRETARY ...

Another season of music and enjoyment approaches! As you know, we are keen for members to enjoy not only great opportunities to sing and experience new or revisited choral works, but also to make friends and have fun.

We will be having our annual Quiz in March or April and hopefully a Christmas or New Year get together. These are good opportunities to chat and make new friends in the choir.

We will again be selling Christmas cards and hopefully some other items that would make good presents for friends and relations.

Some help with providing and serving teas to the orchestra on concert days is always welcome. Please listen out at rehearsals for announcements about the particular requirements for an upcoming concert. We find that providing our fantastic cakes and sandwiches for our visiting orchestra is very popular with the players, all part of encouraging them to regard Worcester as a good gig.



Your continued support on the social side is much appreciated. If you have any ideas or suggestions for any social occasion or saleable items, please don't hesitate to come and speak to me!

Sue White (S)



FROM THE TICKETS SECRETARY ...

All ticket outlets will be opening on 1 September for all WFCS concerts this season. The prices remain as last season. Please book early to secure your chosen seats!

The largest selection of tickets is available online through the <u>WFCS</u> <u>TicketSource page</u> and this is where you can get up to date availability.

Worcester Live also have a limited supply of tickets, if you visit in person their Huntingdon Hall Box Office in The Crowngate or phone 01905 611427. Both outlets will charge a small fee.

Discounts for WFCS Members:

- There is a discount of 20% available only to WFCS members if you book seats for all three concerts at the same time.
- There is also a 'Buy 5 seats and get 6th free' for any one concert. Both deals are available by contacting me: jgjenkins@btinternet.com

CHANCE TO WIN DINNER AT CÔTE WHEN YOU BOOK

Don't forget you can win a free, pre-concert dinner for two at Côte Worcester when you book online! See full details on page 12.



Judy Jenkins (A)



News and updates for Chorus members

Autumn 2019

Editor: Toby Hooper (T)

FROM THE **PATRONS SECRETARY**...

The WFCS Patrons scheme achieves significant fund raising for the Society.

PATRON APPLICATION 2019-20

Price How many Total cost

to appear in programme

6 -

Or mark X here if you don't want your name in programme

Chorus & Orchestra

Front Nave

CHORAL 20

Address

Phone.....

Front Nave season ticket §125

YOUR CONTACT DETAILS

PROGRAMME DETAILS

SEATING PLAN

۲

SEAT PREFERENCE

Please may I encourage WFCS Members to take up Patron packages for your family and friends, or to encourage your family and friends to take up Patron membership to support us?

The price of the package is £125 and includes:

- Priority booking on a Front Nave seat of your choice at each of our three concerts (individual seat value £25)
- Complimentary concert programmes
- Complimentary interval refreshments in the Chapter House with WFCS members
- Your name and patronage acknowledged in our concert programmes
- A copy of the twice-yearly Choral Chronicle giving information about WFCS, and invitations to social events.

Please contact me at <u>annerenshaw@me.com</u> or on 01905 351736 or at a rehearsal.

CHORAL SEASON

RING 21 March 2020 AUGHAN WILLIAMS: A SEA SYMPHONY RITTEN: FOUR SEA INTERLUDES ENDELSSOHN: HEBRIDES OVERTURE

Priority booking to 31 July 2019 on a Front Nave seat of your choice at each of our three concerts (individual seat value £25)

AND INVIGUOUS AND A STORY AND

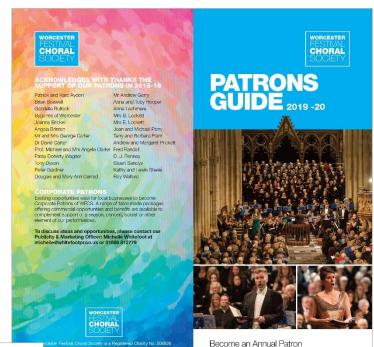
mentary concert programmes

Complimentary interval retreshments in the Chapter House with WECS member

Your name and patronage acknowledged in our concert programmes

RT: REQUIEM

HANDEL: MESSIAH



Become an Annual Patron and support great choral music in Worcester Cathedral

Corporate Patrons:

Exciting opportunities exist for local businesses to become Corporate Patrons of WFCS.

A range of tailor-made packages offering commercial opportunities and benefits can be offered to complement support of a season, concert, soloist or other element of our performances.

To discuss opportunities, contact our Publicity & Marketing Officer, Michelle Whitefoot at <u>michelle@whitefootpr.co.uk</u> or on 01886 812779 or at a rehearsal.

Anne Renshaw (S)



16



News and updates for Chorus members

Autumn 2019

Editor: Toby Hooper (T)

FROM THE MARKETING & PR OFFICER ...

As we all know, achieving ticket sales for any concert isn't easy. Good-sized audiences don't just happen! That's why we are always working hard behind the scenes to promote WFCS concerts, in order to grow our ticket sales and help keep our finances in good shape.

Our strategy is to choose the most hard-working marketing routes possible, without the prohibitive outlay of (say) paid-for advertising. Just some of the ways we already highlight our concerts are shown in the blue box below.

But we also need the help of EVERY chorus member help to spread the word! Here's what everyone can do. Let's get WFCS concerts noticed all over the County this season!

- 1. **POSTERS**: Take a few of our A5 and A4 concert flyers when available, and <u>please put them up on the local noticeboards</u> <u>near you</u>: church, supermarket, village hall, school, shop, your car window etc (But NB we already cover the main County Tourist Offices, theatres, the Cathedral and places with a Direct Publicity / Worcestershire Arts Network leaflet stand)
- 2. **BOOKMARKS**: Every member will receive 10 x WFCS bookmarks at the start of term advertising our 19-20 season. Please give one to your music loving friends and family as a reminder of our dates and box office details
- 3. **CÔTE PROMOTION**: Tell your friends about the chance to win a pre-concert dinner with Côte Worcester (see page 12)
- 4. **FACEBOOK**: If you're on Facebook, <u>Like the WFCS</u> <u>Facebook page</u> and Like / share our posts to your friends
- 5. **TWITTER**: If you're on Twitter, <u>Follow our WFCS Twitter feed</u> and Like/RT / comment on our messages
- 6. WEBSITE: <u>Visit our website</u> regularly to stay abreast of our latest concert and member news, and <u>buy tickets</u>!



ANNOUNCING OUR NEW WEB ADDRESS! Please note we have a new, shorter web address! (Although the old one can still be used for a few more months). Now you can visit us at: WWW.Wfcs.online

DID YOU KNOW? Here are just a few of our Marketing & PR activities.

- Concert previews in local media
- Media competitions to win tickets
- Concert listings on online event and what's on' websites
- E-newsletters to consenting past ticket buyers, promoting concerts
- A5 concert flyer distribution in more than 50 leaflet Worcestershire Arts Network leaflet dispensers across the County, via Direct Publicity
- Posters and flyers in Cathedral
- Emailed posters to other regional choirs for interest
- Concert flyers on seats at other local classical concerts (incl. Cathedral)
- Marketing tie-ups (eg Côte Restaurant, The Sixteen)
- Reciprocal foc advertising with other local music organisations
- Coverage in Cathedral and Friends' newsletters
- Advert / bookmarks in Three Choirs Festival programme books
- Local pre-concert radio interviews
- Active social media feeds: Facebook
 & Twitter plus 'boosted' FB posts
- Pull-up promotional banners to raise
 interest on concert days & at events
- Continually updated website
- Promotional leaflets to generate Patrons and Come & Sing interest
- Promotional keepsake bookmarks to provide a year-round reminder
- Interesting concert programmes
- Christmas tree in the Cathedral cloisters
- Good photography for all-round use



Michelle Whitefoot (S)



News and updates for Chorus members

Autumn 2019

Editor: Toby Hooper (T)

NON-WFCS EVENTS FOR YOUR POTENTIAL INTEREST

Useful website addresses in connection with the following events are:

Elgar Chorale	www.elgarchorale.com
Three Choirs Festival	www.3choirs.org
Worcester Cathedral	www.worcestercathedral.org.uk
Worcester Cathedral Chamber Choir	www.worcestercathedralchamberchoir.co.uk

Date and Time	Venue	Event	Tickets and information contact
Saturday 8 September 10.30am	Worcester Cathedral	Installation of Sam Hudson as Director of Music at Sung Eucharist	
Saturday 14 September 2019	Worcester Cathedral	Heritage Open Day with Medieval Pilgrimage Tour and Library Tour	Cathedral website
Saturday 21 September 2019 9.00am – 5.00pm	RGS Worcester	Come & Sing Elgar's The Kingdom with Piers Maxim and The Elgar Chorale	Elgar Chorale website
Thursday 3 October 2019 7.30pm	Worcester Cathedral	Concert: Cathedral Choir with the City of London Sinfonia	Cathedral website
Saturday 5 October 2019 6.45pm	Worcester Cathedral	Organ Recital: Thomas Trotter	Cathedral website
Saturday 19 October 2019 Registration 9.30am for 10.15am - 5.30pm	St Andrew's Pump Street Worcester	Come & Sing Elgar's The Dream of Gerontius with Brian Kay Organised by The Friends of the Worcester Three Choirs Festival	Three Choirs Festival Box Office 01452 768928 / Three Choirs Festival website
Saturday 9 November 2019 7.30pm	Holy Trinity Church Malvern Link	Concert: The Elgar Chorale Bob Chilcott's <i>Canticles Of Light</i> and works by Elgar, Lauridsen and Rutter	Elgar Chorale website
Saturday 23 November 2019 7.30pm	ТВА	Concert: Worcester Cathedral Chamber Choir: St Cecilia Concert	Chamber Choir website
Saturday 7 December 2019 to Wednesday 1 January 2020	Worcester Cathedral Cloister	Christmas Tree Festival	Cathedral website
Friday 20 December 2019	St Mary's Church Kempsey	Worcester Cathedral Chamber Choir: Nine Lessons and Carols	Chamber Choir website
Saturday 21 December 2019 1.30pm, 4.00pm and 7.00pm	Worcester Cathedral	Big Screen showing of <i>The Snowman</i>	Cathedral website
Friday 17 and Saturday 18 April 2020	Worcester Cathedral	Conference: The Mayflower – Faith and Freedom	TBA on Cathedral website
Saturday 25 April 2020 7.30pm	Worcester Cathedral	Concert: World Premiere performance of Philip Sawyers' Mayflower On The Sea Of Time with the ESO and a Chorus of students and teachers from Worcestershire secondary schools and higher education. Programme also includes Kenneth Woods conducting the ESO in Copland's <i>Fanfare</i> <i>For The Common Man</i> and <i>Apalachian Spring</i> and Vaughan Williams' <i>Fantasia On A Theme By</i> <i>Thomas Tallis.</i>	Tickets on sale in September



News and updates for Chorus members

Autumn 2019

Editor: Toby Hooper (T)

WFCS KEY DIARY DATES 2019-20		
Monday 9 September 2019	First rehearsal of Autumn Term	
Monday 23 or 30 September 2019 TBC	AGM in the second part of rehearsal	
Monday 28 October 2019	No rehearsal: Half Term	
Monday 4 November 2019	Rehearsal at St Andrew's, Pump Street (not Cathedral)*	
Saturday 16 November 2019	2pm rehearsal	
	7:30pm Autumn Concert:	
	Jonathan Willcocks: Lux Perpetua	
	Mozart: Requiem	
Monday 2 December 2019	St Andrew's, Pump Street (not Cathedral)*	
Saturday 7 December 2019	2pm rehearsal	
	7:30pm Winter Concert:	
	Handel: Messiah	
Monday 9 December 2019	Rehearsal at St Andrew's, Pump Street (not Cathedral)*	
Saturday 14 December 2019	2pm rehearsal	
	7:30pm Worcester Cathedral Christmas Concert**	
Monday 6 or 13 January 2020 TBC	First rehearsal of Spring Term 2020	
Monday 17 February 2020	No rehearsal: Half Term	
Saturday 21 March 2020	2pm rehearsal	
	7:30pm Spring Concert:	
	Britten: Sea Interludes	
	Mendelssohn: Fingal's Cave	
	Vaughan Williams: A Sea Symphony	
March or April 2020 TBC	Quiz Night: Powick Village Hall	
Saturday 4 April 2020	Come & Sing - Elgar: The Music Makers (details tbc)	

* **Rehearsals at St Andrew's, Pump Street:** During the 2019-20 Season we will occasionally rehearse at St Andrew's, Pump Street when the Cathedral cannot accommodate us (for example on the occasion of special services). The Church is on the second floor of the building (lift available). Please listen out at rehearsals or keep an eye on the website for any changes or additions to the above St Andrew's dates, correct at the time of writing.

** **The Cathedral Christmas Concert:** We are delighted to confirm that WFCS has again been invited to participate in the Cathedral Christmas Concert. This is the Cathedral's event. The Cathedral organises it. WFCS are invited as guest participants. Members of WFCS participate if they choose to do so. We will be asking nearer the time for notification of intention to participate for platforming purposes.





News and updates for Chorus members

Autumn 2019

Editor: Toby Hooper (T)







PRESIDENT THE LORD BISHOP OF WORCESTER

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT THE DEAN OF WORCESTER

VICE PRESIDENTS DR CHRISTOPHER ROBINSON CVO CBE

ADRIAN LUCAS MA

CONDUCTOR AND DIRECTOR OF MUSIC SAMUEL HUDSON

ACCOMPANIST NICHOLAS FREESTONE CHAIRMAN BEN COOPER b.cooper@lineone.net 01684 541421

TREASURER DAVID NORLEDGE dnorledge@moog.com 07930 982752

GENERAL SECRETARY LESLEY BELLERBY bellerbylp9@btinternet.com 01562 820409

LIBRARIAN JENNY BRUMHEAD jmbrumhead@gmail.com 01905 763299

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBER **TOBY HOOPER** hooper.toby@btopenworld.com **07917 808449** TICKETS SECRETARY JUDY JENKINS jgjenkins@btinternet.com 01905 354533

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY SALLY REES rees.sallyjane@gmail.com 01684 564721

PATRONS SECRETARY ANNE RENSHAW annerenshaw@me.com 01905 351736

SOCIAL SECRETARY SUE WHITE susan.white.wfcs@gmail.com 07970 597229

MARKETING & PUBLICITY OFFICER **MICHELLE WHITEFOOT** michelle@whitefootpr.co.uk 01886 812779

REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 506826

www.worcesterfestivalchoralsociety.org.uk or www.wfcs.online

Worcester Festival Choral Society



All WFCS, Sam Hudson, Three Choirs Festival and Worcester Cathedral photographs: copyright Michael Whitefoot, with grateful thanks! <u>www.michaelwhitefoot.co.uk</u>