



CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

As I write, we are just coming to the end of a very successful season for Worcester Festival Choral Society. However, I have to confess that when Peter Nardone left the Cathedral and WFCS at the beginning of September I did have a few sleepless nights.

Within 24 hours of hearing the news of Peter's departure I was heartily relieved that Chris Allsop agreed to be at our helm for the season. Within a week, with the support and help of Lesley Bellerby and David Norledge, we had all soloists in place and the season could begin.

The November concert was a great success, Vaughan Williams's *Hodie* is certainly a work I would love to sing again. The textures of the music were just a delight, and in contrast the Poulenc, with all its Gallic 'Joi de Vivre'. *Messiah* as always was wonderful!

We are now about to perform Mendelssohn's *Elijah*. I don't know about you, but I have to say I am thoroughly enjoying tackling a major work, not only is it musically challenging but also one where great stamina is required! I can't wait for the drama to unfold on the night, and hopefully to a full nave. Thank you to you all for all your hard work in selling, and marketing out concerts. Fingers crossed for an audience of over 400, which would mean that our ticket sales will be up on last season.



Plus, do make sure you and your singing friends snap up your tickets to join our very popular, one-day Come & Sing choral workshop at Worcester Cathedral on 6th April, offering the chance to learn Beethoven's beautiful *Mass in C* – see full article and details on page 3.

During this season we have welcomed as members Kath Skinner (S), Elizabeth Winscom (S), Amy Haddock (A), Tim Swift (T), Rob Ewels (B), Andrew Newman (B) and Cyril Pulling (B).

SATURDAYS AT 7.30PM

2019-20 SEASON

WORCESTER CATHEDRAL

16 NOVEMBER 2019
MOZART: REQUIEM
WILLCOCKS: LUX PERPETUA

7 DECEMBER 2019
HANDEL: MESSIAH

21 MARCH 2020
VAUGHAN WILLIAMS: A SEA SYMPHONY
BRITTEN: FOUR SEA INTERLUDES
MENDELSSOHN: HEBRIDES OVERTURE

4 APRIL 2020
COME & SING WORKSHOP
ELGAR: THE MUSIC MAKERS

TICKETS £10 - £25 from
WORCESTER LIVE BOX OFFICE
01905 611427 or
worcesternationalchoralsociety.org.uk
REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 50460

I am looking forward to next year immensely. Mozart's *Requiem*, alongside Jonathan Willcocks's *Lux Perpetua* will be a wonderful concert, and in Spring we will be singing Vaughan Williams's *A Sea Symphony*. With Sam Hudson taking the helm we will open a new chapter for WFCS.

At this point I would like to give my sincerest special thanks to Chris Allsop. He has been a star guiding us through this season, with challenging music. His humour, musicality, support and friendship has been a sheer joy. I am sure you will all join me in publicly thanking him.

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)

CÔTE SPONSORSHIP CONTINUES FOR 19-20 SEASON... *plus there's a new, exclusive offer for WFCS chorus members!*



Firstly ... we are delighted to confirm that Côte Restaurant in Worcester has agreed to continue as Worcester Festival Choral Society's official hospitality sponsor for our upcoming 2019-20 concert season!

This means that anyone, including chorus members, who books WFCS concert tickets through our [TicketSource box office \(via our website\)](#) can continue to opt-in to a Côte-run Prize Draw made a few days before each concert... with the chance of winning one of five, 3-course Prestige Set Menu pre-concert dinners for two people at Côte Worcester, including a Kir Royale or soft drink per guest and a concert programme!

The Prize Draw opt-in box appears on-screen at the point of ticket purchase, along with full details and Terms & Conditions.

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 opportunity. Good luck, and 'Bon Appétit' should you win!



Emma Morgan, manager of Côte Worcester, with WFCS chairman Ben Cooper at the restaurant.

WFCS CHORUS SPECIAL OFFER FROM CÔTE!

Complimentary bottle of wine at Côte Worcester until 30th Sept when two or more dine à la carte

As a thank you for its partnership with WFCS to date, Côte Brasserie would like to extend a very special summer offer exclusively to you, the members of Worcester Festival Choral Society...

Enjoy a complimentary bottle of wine when two or more dine from their à la carte menu!

Simply book a table through the link below to redeem the offer, and do feel free to use this multiple times throughout the summer!

[Click here to request offer link](#)



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 dine from our à la carte menu and order a minimum of main courses. Not valid in conjunction with any other offer or set menu. All reservations must be made through the special link provided above.

SUPPORT WFCS IN THE WORCESTER COMMUNITY LOTTERY

Worcester City Council is launching a new initiative to help local charities: the Worcester Community Lottery... and Worcester Festival Choral Society has been accepted as one of the charities that can potentially benefit from it! Here's how you can play and help your Choral Society at the same time.



WHAT IS IT?

- Worcester Community Lottery is a weekly online lottery. The draw takes place every Saturday night at 8pm
- Tickets are purchased online at www.worcesterlottery.org
- There is a top prize of £25,000 if 6 numbers are matched, £2,000 if 5 consecutive numbers are matched, and so on.
- The average odds of winning a prize are estimated at 50:1.
- It's one of many similar Lottery schemes already run for Councils across the UK by a company called Gatherwell
- **Tickets can be bought from: Tuesday 26th March 2019**
- **First draw takes place: Saturday 27th April 2019**

HOW IS MONEY RAISED FOR LOCAL CAUSES?

- The aim is to raise money within the community, for the community:
 - Local people can support the local causes they care most about
 - Local good causes can raise money in a fun and effective way
 - Good causes can connect with their supporters
- Every ticket costs £1, of which 60p goes directly to local good causes (Minimum purchase is 1 month (5 weeks') worth of tickets – ie £5 spend)
- It is the ticket purchasers themselves who choose which local charity they want to benefit from that 60p, when they are buying their tickets
- **So if you, your friends or family do take part we hope that you will choose Worcester Festival Choral Society as the charity you want to benefit!** The average £ return for charities participating in other regions is £2,000 per annum, so it could be a very worthwhile opportunity to help us continue to stage our wonderful concerts!

HOW TO PLAY

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

Thank you and GOOD LUCK!

'COME & SING' BEETHOVEN'S *MASS IN C*

Snap up your tickets for the popular, annual WFCS Come & Sing one-day workshop on Saturday 6th April – a fantastic way for both members and non-members to learn another of the 'choral greats'!

More than 100 amateur singers are expected to take part in the annual workshop, which this year gives the chance to learn Beethoven's beautiful *Mass in C*, and takes place in the inspiring Cathedral Nave itself. For the first time, the day will be led by our incoming Music Director, Sam Hudson, who formally joins both us and Worcester Cathedral from Blackburn Cathedral in September. The brilliant Nicholas Freestone will accompany.

Registration is from 9.30am for a 10:15 start. After an informal afternoon performance which singers' family and friends can attend free of charge, the day finishes by 5pm. The price of £20 (adults) and £10 (students) includes a vocal score for the day and free tea and coffee. Participants can even book a home-made packed lunch!

Online booking, and a downloadable information leaflet /postal booking form, are at www.worcesterfestivalchoralsociety.org



THREE CHOIRS FESTIVAL GLOUCESTER

26 July - 3 August 2019

This year's Three Choirs Festival – in which a number of WFCS chorus members will sing as part of the Festival Chorus – takes place in Gloucester. Full details of the Festival programme are being announced online on Friday 22nd March, and booking opens in April (various dates).

Adrian Partington, Artistic Director of this year's Festival said: "With major concerts, song recitals, community music events, talks and late night entertainment the Gloucester festival of 2019 will be an exciting week!

"We honour the 150th anniversary of Berlioz's death with *La damnation de Faust*, featuring a stellar cast of soloists. We also feature his overture *Le Carnaval Romain* and more. We're offering a cornucopia of wonderful choral/orchestral classics: Vaughan Williams' *A Sea Symphony*, Verdi's *Requiem*, Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony*, Rachmaninov's *All-Night Vigil*, Karl Jenkins' *The Armed Man* (Festival Youth Choir), and the UK concert premiere of Mendelssohn's arrangement of Handel's *Israel in Egypt*. We're thrilled to have the Philharmonia Orchestra as our resident orchestra again; and to have a visit from the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, who give a centenary performance of Elgar's *Cello Concerto* and a revival of John Joubert's 2010 Festival commission *An English Requiem*. Another commission is Bob Chilcott's *Christmas Oratorio*, performed by the Three Cathedral Choirs, paired with Britten's *Ceremony of Carols*."

Details - www.3choirs.org

THREE CHOIRS FESTIVAL GLOUCESTER 2019 26 JULY – 3 AUGUST

Festival Preview
3choirs.org



THREE CHOIRS FESTIVAL GLOUCESTER 26 JULY – 3 AUGUST 2019

	EARLY	MORNING	AFTERNOON	EVENING	LATE	
26.7 FRI		 Edward Gardner © Benjamin Edelberg		Choir of Merton College, Oxford: James Macmillan's <i>Seven Last Words from the Cross</i> in Tewkesbury Abbey	 WORKSHOPS AND FAMILY EVENTS ALL WEEK	
27.7 SAT			Opening Service with Elgar Te Deum	Nova Music Opera: Stephen McNeff's <i>The Burning Boy</i> in Tewkesbury Abbey		Berlioz's <i>La Damnation of Faust</i> with Sarah Connolly, Peter Hoare, Christopher Purves, and David Ireland
28.7 SUN				Tenor Joshua Ellicott sings Finzi and Gurney		Edward Gardner conducts Verdi's <i>Requiem</i> with Ailyn Perez, Christine Rice, David Butt Philip and James Platt
29.7 MON		The Rodolfus Choir sing Elgar and Tavener in Gloucester Cathedral	John Scott Whiteley premieres a new work by James Macmillan in his organ recital	Ex Cathedra sing Rachmaninov's <i>All-Night Vigil</i> (Vespers)	Late nights include: Papagena vocal trio Pianist Philip Dyson Adrián Varela's <i>'Rites and Myths'</i> The Lay Clerks in concert	
30.7 TUE	Breakfast talks include: April Frederic on Ivor Gurney	Three Choirs Festival Youth Choir sing Karl Jenkins' <i>The Armed Man</i> and Giles Swayne's <i>Our Orphan Souls</i> (UK premiere)	 Carducci Quartet © Tom Barnes	Joubert's <i>An English Requiem</i> , Elgar Cello Concerto and Berlioz <i>Le Carnaval Romain</i> with the BBC National Orchestra of Wales, Natalie Clein, April Frederic and Neal Davies	Exploring the Rig Veda Hymnos jazz quartet	
31.7 WED	Ian Venables on English song	On Wenlock Edge : James Gilchrist, Anna Tillbrook and the Carducci Quartet perform Vaughan Williams, Ian Venables and Ravel		The UK concert premiere of Mendelssohn's arrangement of Handel's <i>Israel in Egypt</i> , with Rebecca Afonwy Jones, Raphaela Papadakis, Jessica Dandy, Stuart Jackson and James Newby		
1.8 THU	Holst's fascination with Indian culture	Roderick Williams : a recital of English song centred on Somervell's <i>Maud</i>	The Three Cathedral Choirs perform Britten's <i>Ceremony of Carols</i> and premiere Bob Chilcott's <i>A Christmas Oratorio</i> , with Sarah Connolly, Nick Pritchard and Neal Davies	Martyn Brabbins conducts the Philharmonia Orchestra in Stravinsky's <i>Firebird Suite</i> , Walton Symphony No 1 and Berlioz's <i>Nuits d'été</i> with Anna Stéphany	 Roderick Williams	
2.8 FRI	The health benefits of singing	The Philharmonia Chamber Players in a programme featuring Mendelssohn's Octet	The Glevum Consort celebrate the musical legacy of the newly restored Llanthony Secunda Priory on Gloucester Quays	Vaughan Williams' <i>A Sea Symphony</i> and Stanford's <i>Songs of the Fleet</i> with Roderick Williams and Katherine Broderick		
3.8 SAT		St Cecilia Singers sing an <i>a cappella</i> concert of Gloucestershire composers in Painswick Church	Carl Davis' <i>The Last Train to Tomorrow</i> marks the 80th anniversary of the last Kindertransport to leave Prague	Festival Finale: Holst's <i>The Mystic Trumpeter</i> with Alwyn Mellor and Beethoven Symphony No 9		

INSIGHT: **PHOTOGRAPHING A WFCS CONCERT**

Michael Whitefoot's photography has been at the heart of WFCS's image update in our leaflets, concert programmes, e-shots and the introduction of our calendars. And the *Choral Chronicle*! So we asked Michael (married to Michelle Whitefoot (S)) to tell us how he achieves his striking live action shots.



Since retiring from business a few years ago I have been a professional sports, landscape and concert photographer. This means I have to try to make money from the images I take, in a world where almost everyone has a digital camera, and can in theory capture the same images as me! However, that's not the case when it comes to photographing WFCS concerts at Worcester Cathedral: not only is the audience not allowed to take any photos during the concert, but I also give my services to the Society free of charge. My aim is to capture as many usable photos during the concert as I can, for use on the WFCS website, in leaflets, PR, social media, direct marketing etc... with one huge caveat – the audience mustn't know I am there!!

A typical WFCS concert day begins with me packing my kit in the morning, which I recently changed from superfast, noisy Canon sports equipment, to totally silent Sony kit. Both systems enable fast shutter speeds in low light and the ability to get close up photos of conductors and soloists from a long way down the Nave, but the Sony is now the obvious choice.

After attending the rehearsal for test shots, for WFCS concerts I take two camera bodies to go with a 400mm lens, 24-70mm lens and a 70-210mm lens. The 400mm is for close ups and the 70-210mm is for whole choir or whole orchestra and the 24-70mm for concert starts, when the conductor and soloists are taking their opening bow.

This is where my invisibility doesn't work as I am standing in the aisle in front of the whole audience (see below)! However during the concert I will move around the cathedral as quietly as possible, using pillars and loud sections of music to try and be as quiet and invisible as possible. My brief is to capture photos of the start, conductor, soloists, orchestra, choir and the end. This can be tricky when I can't focus on a programme and don't know what's happening during the concert! Being in the right place at the right time can be a tad lucky.

Recently, for WFCS concerts I have used two additional camera bodies with lenses mounted on tripods: one in the pulpit and another at the West door (when it's not a fire escape). The cameras are triggered using a remote switch which enables me to get three photos of a single scene almost at the same time.

So with four camera bodies taking photos during a 2.5 hour concert, I get home with about 3,000 images to go through! Yes, quite a lot will be of the same a few seconds in time, but that's a necessity as conductors for example blink, look down, wave their hand in front of their face ... and don't get me started on the baton!

Also, taking decent photos in the generally low light levels (or, in the case of the Chorus, ultra-bright spotlights shining on some singers, but not others) is a huge challenge.

After each concert it takes between 3-4 hours to process all the images and make high and low



resolution versions for web and printing, so this is normally done the day when I get home in the evening. The first batch is usually then uploaded to Facebook for everyone's interest, and the rest used for marketing.

Apart from concerts I also photograph landscapes across Worcestershire, Herefordshire and the Cotswolds to produce postcards, greeting cards, calendars, jigsaws, keyrings, fridge magnets and more, all of which are sold in WH Smith, Worcester & Hereford Cathedrals, Webb's & St Peter's garden centres and other shops.

Michael's WFCS concert photography is available to browse at www.michaelwhitefoot.co.uk/music

Three Choirs photos

For the last two years I have also acted as the Three Choirs Festival's official photographer. This involves covering up to 60 events over nine days, including the events held away from the Cathedrals, for which I'm paid a nominal fee. For a Three Choirs evening concert for example I will take all the kit shown in the photo below.



Above: Chorus perspectives

You can see the difference achieved between a photo from the aisle (top left), from the West Door at the far back of the nave (top right), from the pulpit (bottom left) and on the platform itself (bottom right) all giving a slightly different effects.



PROFILE: **WORCESTER CATHEDRAL GUILD OF BELLRINGERS**



On Monday evenings the Bellringers practise and the Choral Society rehearse in the Cathedral, we at the west end and the Bellringers in the tower, yet, such is the soundproofing of the tower internally, we may only hear the bells when we rehearse some distance away at St Andrew's, Pump Street, or when they are ringing to the City in daytime.

We asked the Ringing Master, Mark Regan, to tell us something about ringing in general and this important feature of Cathedral life in particular. Mark writes:

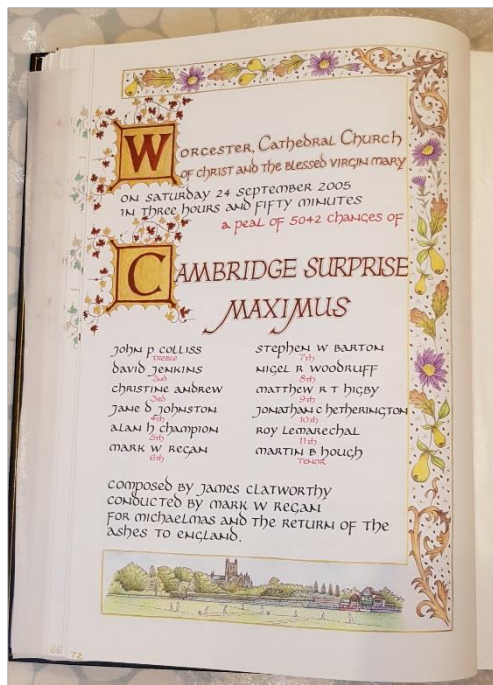
The Bellringers are a highly skilled team who voluntarily give their time and talents to the Cathedral. We are internationally recognised for our work teaching bellringing and leading change in our ringing world.

Church bells are the biggest and loudest musical instruments. The Cathedral's bells are the fifth heaviest in the world. Replacing a peal cast in 1870, the bells were cast at Taylor's of Loughborough in 1928 as a Great War memorial. Much of the cost was paid by clergy who had lost their sons in the War. The new bells were first rung on Armistice Day 1928. There are 16 ringing bells in the tower and the biggest weighs 48cwt. Our bells are regarded as one of the finest peals.

The Cathedral is the only church with an harmonic minor ten. Rung half-muffled on Good Friday, Armistice and Remembrance Days and New Year's Eve, their haunting sound reminds the living of their mortality and is the call of the dead to be remembered.



Ringers on Sunday 11 November 2018 on the 100th anniversary of the Armistice ending the Great War



A page from the Worcester Cathedral Bellringers' Peal Book. Each entry is hand written by calligrapher Clare Griffiths, friend of the Bellringers who is the Secretary of the Exeter Cathedral Bellringers

Bellringing has a unique place in the landscape of English memory. Church bells have been rung for over 400 years to call people to worship, to celebrate, to commemorate, to mourn and for sport. In 1710 Handel described England as the "ringing isle" because he heard bells ringing wherever he travelled.

Bellringing music is notated as numbers. Each bell moves position with the others forming complex patterns. This factorial number theory is memorised by each bellringer. We do not use musical notation or scores. Sometimes we ring special peals which last for four hours. These performances are physically demanding as the tower moves considerably making the bells difficult to ring. However, we love the challenge.

We built the first Teaching Centre for Bellringing in the world in 2008. Using dumbbells linked to computers, the physical experience of ringing bell is linked to a perfect ringing environment for the pupil. The Friends of Worcester Cathedral kindly supported our recent computer and software upgrade.

Our Guild comprises 40 ringers of all ages. Our young ringers regularly enter a national youth contest. We ring every Sunday morning, most Monday evenings and at other times for special occasions.

If you would like to meet the bellringers and watch us ring, please get in touch with me. Mark Regan, Ringing Master, Mwregan1@gmail.com

GET ON BOARD FOR MAYFLOWER 2020!

The Mayflower sailed to America in 1620, and across the nation events will be taking place to mark this important anniversary.

Worcestershire has strong associations with the Mayflower story through senior Pilgrim Father, Edward Winslow. Edward was born in Droitwich, educated at the King's School Worcester, and his family lived in Kempsey. He would become Governor of Plymouth Colony three times over, he was one of those who signed the Mayflower Compact, he acted as a special envoy between the Colony and the English Parliament, and he is largely attributed with having established 'Thanksgiving'.

This significant anniversary is forming the basis of an exciting educational choral singing project with Worcestershire secondary schools. Composer Philip Sawyers (Composer Laureate to the ESO) has been commissioned to write a major Cantata for Worcester: 'Mayflower On The Sea Of Time' for SATB chorus and symphony orchestra, with soprano and baritone soloists. The work reflects upon the issues faced by the pilgrims, many of which are just as relevant today, and focuses on the settlers and Edward Winslow's story. The first performance of the work will take place on Saturday 25 April 2020 in Worcester Cathedral. The youth chorus will comprise around 200 students and their teachers from eight schools and the Cathedral's girl choristers.

This is an exceptional opportunity for young people to work with and perform alongside professional musicians and be inspired by choral singing - our choral singers of the future!



BUYING ONLINE? USE OUR AMAZON LINK TO BENEFIT WFCS



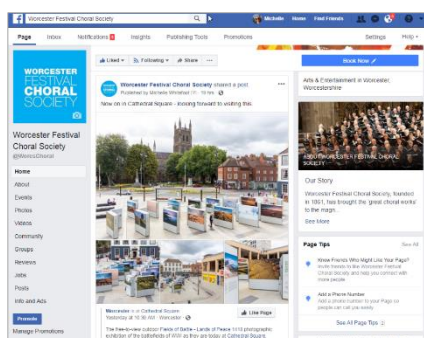
This is not to advertise Amazon, but if you should choose to use Amazon when shopping online at any time, please may we suggest that you do so using our special WFCS link!

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

To shop on Amazon and donate to WFCS, copy this link
<https://amzn.to/2cRSuDN> or visit
<https://www.worcesterfestivalchoralsociety.org.uk/getting-involved>



HELP US SPREAD THE WORD via FACEBOOK & TWITTER



As mentioned in the last edition of Choral Chronicle, WFCS is active on both Facebook and Twitter, with the aim of sharing latest news and reaching new, bigger concert audiences. But we are need YOU to help us spread the word even further!

Both of our feeds are packed with continually updated WFCS concert news PLUS local events, interesting ideas, fun updates, local news and much more, all year round. There is lots for you and you friends to enjoy.

So please help us to build our growing online community, and gather new audiences for the future, by Liking/Following us:



If you are on Facebook, please [Like the WFCS Facebook page](#) and Like/Share our posts to your family, friends and music-loving contacts.



If you are on Twitter, please [follow our WFCS Twitter feed](#) and Like/RT our messages to the wider world.

... AND DON'T FORGET TO USE OUR WEBSITE!

As well as being the place to buy our concert tickets online, the WFCS website is continually updated with concert and event information, latest news releases, audience testimonials and chorus member dates, updates and information.

If there are ever any emergency messages (such as cancellations due to snow!) you'll also find them here, as well as on our Facebook page.

Please visit often – and mention it to your friends – to make the most of this great resource! Visit:

<https://www.worcesterfestivalchoralsociety.org.uk/>



UPDATE: WFCS YOUNG SINGERS INITIATIVE

In the August 2018 issue of the Choral Chronicle, and at the AGM in September 2018, we announced outline plans for involving the Patricia Thompson legacy in a significant Young Singers Initiative in association with WFCS.

We shall bring WFCS members up to date with progress as we begin our 2019-20 season in September 2019.

NON-WFCS EVENTS FOR YOUR POTENTIAL INTEREST



Saturday, 6 April 2019: WFCS 'Come & Sing' Choral Workshop with Sam Hudson: *Beethoven Mass in C*: Worcester Cathedral. 9:30 am registration for 10:15 am start: day finishes 5 pm. Adults £20. Full-time students £10 (under 18s accompanied by an adult): See article on page 3 for details. Tickets online (and for optional packed lunch) at WFCS website www.worcesterfestivalchoralsociety.org.uk

Saturday, 6 April 2019: 7:30 pm: St Martin's, London Road: Worcester Cathedral Chamber Choir 20th Anniversary Concert: Brahms *Requiem* (two piano version, with Christopher Allsop and Robin Walker (pianos)): Tickets (01386) 860389 or on the door.

Thursdays 9, 16 & 23 May and 6, 13, 20 & 27 June 2019: 12:15 pm to 12:55 pm: Worcester Cathedral Lunchtime Organ Recitals: Admission free, retiring collection.

Saturday 11 May 2019: 7:30 pm: Worcester Cathedral: Alcester Male Voice Choir (with Christopher Allsop (organ)): Concert "Music is for Everyone".

Thursday 30 May to Sunday 2 June 2019: Elgar Festival, featuring concerts, workshops, talks, poetry and exhibitions. The gala concert on Saturday 1 June 2019 at 7:30 pm in Worcester Cathedral features Elgar's Sea Pictures and Cello Concerto (ESO, with Raphael Wallfisch (Cello)): Tickets – all Festival events www.elgarfestival.org or Saturday concert only www.eso.co.uk

Wednesday 5 June to Saturday 3 August 2019: Longborough Opera presenting Wagner's *Das Rheingold*, Donizetti's *Anna Bolena*, Mozart's *Don Giovanni* and Cavalli's *La Callisto*: Longborough, near Moreton-in-Marsh: www.lfo.org.uk

Friday 26th July to Saturday, 3 August 2019: Gloucester Three Choirs Festival: www.3choirs.org See their website and our article on page 4 for details.

Voces Academy Choral Conducting Masterclasses: Worcester Cathedral and Guildhall: Drop in to open sessions to see young choral conductors from around the world honing their craft, and to hear the young chamber choir "Evoke" from London in free public performances: www.vocesacademy.org Dates/times TBA.

PLUS...

Worcester Three Choirs Festival 2020:

By the time we publish the Autumn 2019 issue of the Choral Chronicle in August, we will be able to preview the 2020 Worcester Three Choirs Festival. WFCS Chairman Ben Cooper is Festival Chairman.

WFCS DIARY DATES 2019-20



First rehearsal of 2019-20 season

Monday 2 September 2019 OR
Monday 9 September 2019
(TBC by special email to members during the summer)

Autumn half-term break (no rehearsal)

Monday, 28 October 2019

AUTUMN CONCERT –

Mozart: *Requiem* / Willcocks: *Lux Aeterna*

Saturday, 16 November 2019

WINTER CONCERT – Handel: *Messiah*

Saturday, 7 December 2019

First rehearsal of Spring Term 2020

Monday 6 January 2020 OR
Monday, 13 January 2020: TBC

Spring 2020 half-term break (no rehearsal)

Monday, 17 February 2020

SPRING CONCERT –

Vaughan Williams: *A Sea Symphony* /

Britten: *Four Sea Interludes* /

Mendelssohn: *Hebrides Overture*

Saturday, 21 March 2020

Quiz Night (Powick Village Hall)

TBC

'Come & Sing' 1-day choral workshop:

Elgar: *The Music Makers*

Saturday 4 April 2020

Possible rehearsals at St Andrew's, Pump Street: During the 2019-20 season we may rehearse at St Andrew's occasionally, when the Cathedral cannot accommodate us (eg special services). The Church is on the second floor of the building (lift available). Please listen out at rehearsal or keep an eye on the website for any St Andrew's dates which may be necessary.

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Keep your eye on www.worcesterfestivalchoralsociety.org.uk for updates and member information all year round – and help promote our concerts on Social Media:



[Worcester Festival Choral Society](http://www.worcesterfestivalchoralsociety.org.uk)



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