



## CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

**As we approach the end of the season, it seemed high time for a *Choral Chronicle*! What a great season it has been, and I am so looking forward to the Brahms – I hope you are too!**

This year we have welcomed many new members to our fold, and I hope that you have enjoyed meeting new people and making some great music. Indeed, our membership is full, we are of course limited by the size of the staging!

I know it unnerved many of us when we first sang at 'The Crossing' of the Cathedral, and particularly whilst rehearsing the Lauridsen...! But when it came to the performance we really proved our mettle, in particular with the unaccompanied section of the Lauridsen. As Peter said, it really proved that we are a very accomplished chorus, justifying our reputation. The Haydn, though less challenging, was equally well received and illustrated perfectly how a concert of 'New and Old' together can work.

The *Messiah* was its usual great success for the society, yet again I was showered with compliments for how well we sang and how professionally we present ourselves. 2016 finished in true festive style with us joining the cathedral choirs for the Christmas Concert.

Now all that's left is for us to sing the glorious Brahms *Ein Deutsches Requiem* – possibly my favourite work for massed chorus, I can't wait – let's all do a final push for ticket sales to fill the nave!

*continued over*





Looking forward to next season, we will again be doing something 'New' and something 'Old', with Dove's *For an Unknown Soldier* and Duruflé's exquisite *Requiem* in November, in December the *Messiah*, and finally in 2018 Haydn's *Creation*.

As the season closes I would like to extend my thanks to Peter, Chris and also Richard Cook (covering Chris during his sabbatical). We all learn so much each rehearsal with their professionalism as well as their joy of music making.

At this point I would like to thank David Norledge for all his hard work as Treasurer, and his kindness in giving an 18-month notice period for his retirement from the committee. As far as I know, no-one has yet come forward to take over as Treasurer or to help as a book keeper... hopefully over the Summer break someone will step forward...

Whilst on money matters... have you joined the 100 Club? (see Deirdre Myers). Booked your tickets for the Quiz Night? (see Sue White).

Found someone who would like to be a Patron? (see Anne Renshaw). Have a company to advertise in our programmes? (see Toby Hooper). Used our Amazon link on the society website? (see [www.worcesterfestivalchoralsociety.org.uk](http://www.worcesterfestivalchoralsociety.org.uk) Home page). All these ways help us financially, to hire the Cathedral, pay the orchestra, source top soloists and keep subs down!

Michelle Whitefoot, with the assistance of Anne Renshaw, has worked very hard this year, creating a new look and logo, and moving us fully into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century with social media.

Finally - in addition to thanking all the other very hard-working members of our WFCS committee - there is one body of people I would like to thank. That is you, the members! Turning up week after week, sometimes when the weather is inclement, or after a hard day at work, and working together as a team presenting highly polished performances. It is a great joy to work with you all.

Ben Cooper (B)

WORCESTER  
FESTIVAL  
CHORAL  
SOCIETY

SATURDAYS AT 7.30PM  
**2017-18  
SEASON**  
WORCESTER CATHEDRAL

18 NOVEMBER 2017  
**DURUFLÉ: REQUIEM**  
**DOVE: FOR AN UNKNOWN SOLDIER**

9 DECEMBER 2017  
**HANDEL: MESSIAH**

17 MARCH 2018  
**HAYDN: CREATION**

7 APRIL 2018  
**COME & SING:  
ONE-DAY WORKSHOP**

TICKETS £10 - £25 from  
WORCESTER LIVE BOX OFFICE  
**01905 611427** or  
[worcesterfestivalchoralsociety.org.uk](http://worcesterfestivalchoralsociety.org.uk)  
REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 506826




## THREE CHOIRS FESTIVAL WORCESTER

**Saturday 22 to Saturday 29 July 2017**

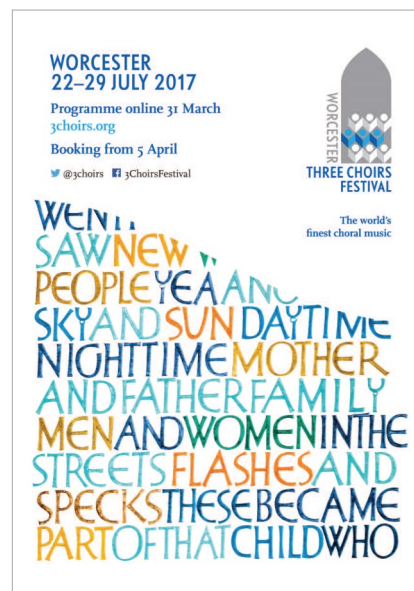
Ticket sales time for this particularly exciting Worcester Three Choirs Festival is fast approaching.

Peter Nardone is Artistic Director.

Information about the Festival is available on the Three Choirs Festival website: [www.3choirs.org](http://www.3choirs.org)

The Friends of Worcester Three Choirs Festival present fund-raising events in support of Worcester Festivals, which are enjoyable in themselves and which represent a significant financial contribution to the Festival.

Details of these events can be found on the [www.3choirs.org](http://www.3choirs.org) website.

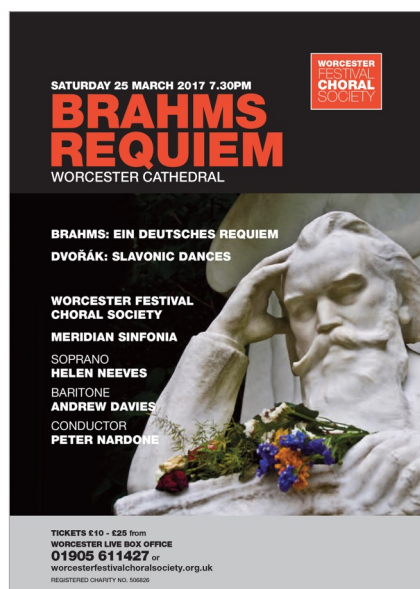


## TUNE IN ON 22 MARCH!

### Your Chairman on BBC Hereford & Worcester

Tune your radio to BBC Hereford & Worcester on Wednesday 22nd March at 12.30pm to hear Ben Cooper chat to presenter Tammy Gooding about our 25 March Brahms/Dvořák concert.

Ben will also be promoting our Come & Sing *Dream of Gerontius* workshop being held at College Hall on 1st April.



**Don't forget to book your tickets for family and friends for the Brahms concert and Come & Sing workshop!**

**Book online on our website [HERE](http://www.3choirs.org)**

**or call**

**Worcester Live:  
01905 611427**



## **FEATURE: JONATHAN DOVE'S FOR AN UNKNOWN SOLDIER**

**WFCS concert - 18 November 2017**

*For An Unknown Soldier*, which WFCS will be performing at our autumn 2017 concert, is a Cantata of remembrance to mark the centenary of the First World War. It was commissioned by Portsmouth Grammar School and the London Mozart Players. It was first performed on 9 November 2014.



On his website at [www.jonathandove.com](http://www.jonathandove.com) Jonathan Dove describes the inspiration and structure of the piece.

He drew his initial inspiration from letters of war-time shown to him by the archivist of Portsmouth Grammar School, John Sadden. He then selected and set poems of wartime as letters home from the soldier at the front, and from the soldier home.

Jonathan Dove writes: "From my reading, a sequence of poems gradually emerged which suggested to me one man's journey through the war: beginning with enthusiasm and the decision to enlist; going on to discover the reality of war, and finding death on the battlefield; the grief of those left behind ... Particularly in the First World War, the experiences of men and women

were quite different, so I have set some poems for male voices only, or female voices only. I was aware that I was writing for young voices near the age of many of those who fought, as well as for children."

Four of the poets whose work Dove selected died in the war, among them Wilfred Owen, William Noel Hodgson and Charles Hamilton Sorely. Ivor Gurney survived gassing, but with his mental and physical health wrecked. Women poets featured include Helen Dircks and Marian Allen.

For Worcester Festival Choral Society, the opportunity to perform *For An Unknown Soldier* will be a welcome return to the work of Jonathan Dove, particularly in such timely commemorative circumstances. We remember from our performance in November 2014 of Dove's *There Was a Child*, which he attended, this composer's striking facility with contrasting moods of music and the ability to set poetry arrestingly.

There is one recording of *For An Unknown Soldier* available, on Signum Classics, at [www.signumrecords.com](http://www.signumrecords.com) or through the special [WFCS Link](#) to Amazon (WFCS receives a donation of 10% of the sale, at no cost to you). The recording features Nicky Spence (Tenor) the London Mozart players, the Oxford Bach Choir and Portsmouth Grammar School Chamber Choir, conducted by Nicholas Cleobury. It is paired with the ensemble's performance of Dove's *An Airmail Letter from Mozart*, directed from the piano by Melvyn Tan.

The Choristers of the Cathedral Choirs will be performing "There Was A Child" at this year's Three Choirs Festival in Worcester on Thursday 27 July.

## WFCS DIARY DATES 2017-18

### Come & Sing Workshop -

Elgar: *Dream of Gerontius*,  
College Hall, King's School, Worcester

Saturday 1 April 2017, 9.30am - 4.45pm  
Conductor Christopher Allsop,  
Accompanist Richard Cook

### WFCS Quiz Night - Powick Village Hall,

Friday 7 April, 7.30pm

### Three Choirs Festival - Worcester

Saturday 22 to Saturday 29 July 2017

### First WFCS Rehearsal of Autumn Term

Monday 4 September 2017 [tbc]

### Autumn Half Term

Monday 23 October 2017 [tbc]

### Autumn Concert - Duruflé: *Requiem* / Dove: *For an Unknown Soldier*

Saturday 18 November 2017

### Winter Concert - Handel: *Messiah*

Saturday 9 December 2017

### Spring Concert 2018 - Haydn: *The Creation*

Saturday 17 March 2018

### Come & Sing Workshop 2018 - music tbc

Saturday 7th April 2018

## OTHER CONCERTS FOR YOUR POTENTIAL INTEREST

You may have seen and heard the **Musical and Amicable Society** at the Purely Bach series in 2015-16, and accompanying Peter Nardone in Purely Baroque 1 on 3 March 2017. They appear in the image below. Other concerts in which their members feature are included in the following list:

### Maundy Thursday 13 April, 1.10pm, Worcester Cathedral

**Purely Baroque 2:** Musical and Amicable Society and Vocal Consort, Directed by Christopher Allsop: Buxtehude – *Membra Jesu Nostri*. Free admission, retiring collection.

### Friday 21 April, 8.00pm, Old Baptist Chapel, Tewkesbury

**Kate Fawcett, Simon Eckert and Martin Perkins:**  
Music for violin, viola da gamba and keyboard.

### Friday 26 May, 7.30pm, Worcester Cathedral

**Purely Baroque 3:** Worcester Cathedral Girl Choristers, Musical and Amicable Society, Directed by Christopher Allsop.

### Sunday 4 June, 3.00pm, St Martin's Church, Worcester

**Boscobel Quartet** (Sophie Barber and Iona Davies, violins; Kate Fawcett, viola; Kinga Gaborjai, cello): String Quartets by Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven.

### Sunday 16 July, 3.30pm, Old Baptist Chapel, Tewkesbury:

**Emma Kirkby, Nicholas Clapton and David Miller:** Robert Dowland's *A Musical Banquet* and Coprario's *Funerall Teares*.



You may also be interested in other concerts advertised in our Brahms *Requiem* programme:

**Chandos Symphony Orchestra**, 2 April [www.malvern-theatres.co.uk](http://www.malvern-theatres.co.uk)

**Malvern Concert Club**, 7 April & 27 April [www.malvern-concert-club.co.uk](http://www.malvern-concert-club.co.uk)

**Malvern Priory Organ Recitals**, various dates [www.malvern-priory-organ.org.uk](http://www.malvern-priory-organ.org.uk)

**The Armed Man, Worcestershire Centenary Chorus**, Worcester Cathedral, 30 Sept, 01905 611427

## THANKS TO OUR **CONCERT PROGRAMME ADVERTISERS**

In this Edition of the Choral Chronicle we are reminding members about our Concert Programme paid advertisers in Season 2016-17. This is both by way of encouragement to members to suggest potential advertisers not yet known to us but whom we might approach, and as a 'Thank You' to our current advertisers for their welcome support for WFCS and for their colourful contributions to our Concert Programmes.

Toby Hooper (T), Advertising coordinator

### OUR CURRENT PAID **ADVERTISERS** (alphabetical order)

Andrew Grant - [www.andrew-grant.co.uk](http://www.andrew-grant.co.uk)

Bellringers of Worcester Cathedral - [www.worcesterbells.co.uk](http://www.worcesterbells.co.uk)

Bygones of Worcester - [www.bygonesofworcester.co.uk](http://www.bygonesofworcester.co.uk)

Choir of Worcester Cathedral - [www.worcestercathedral.org.uk](http://www.worcestercathedral.org.uk)

King's School Worcester - [www.ksw.org.uk](http://www.ksw.org.uk)

Mark Elliston Financial Services - [www.ellistonfs.co.uk](http://www.ellistonfs.co.uk)

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NFU Mutual Insurance - [www.nfumutual.co.uk](http://www.nfumutual.co.uk)

Worcester Podiatry Clinic - [www.worcesterfootcentre.co.uk](http://www.worcesterfootcentre.co.uk)

### WFCS **COMMITTEE**

REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 506826

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Keep your eye on our website for updates and member information all year round:  
[www.worcesterfestivalchoralsociety.org.uk](http://www.worcesterfestivalchoralsociety.org.uk)

Please also help spread the word about our concerts on Social Media:



Worcester Festival Choral Society



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