

Salisbury Choral Society

NEWSLETTER

THURSDAY 8TH JULY 2021

Welcome to another edition of ramblings from the conductor!

I hope the newsletter continues to find you well.

Apologies again that there has been a notable gap between this newsletter and the last. With the world starting to come out of lockdown, my working week is considerably busier than it was 12 months ago, when I was furloughed from everything! I hope to continue our reminiscing through the archives for a bit longer though, so here we go for **2014!**

From the Archives: 2014

At the beginning of 2014, Winchester City Festival Choir had their annual concert at St. Swithun's in **January** (or it might have been the beginning of **February**). We followed a pattern that WCFC often have for their annual concert, with a long choral item in the second half of the programme, alongside shorter items in the first half.

The "long" item in the second half of the concert was Mozart's setting of the Vespers K339. This is the second setting of the psalms used at Vespers (plus the Magnificat), composed in 1780 for liturgical use at Salzburg Cathedral. This second setting (K339) includes the "famous" Laudate Dominum.



The first half had a feast of choral music! On the menu was the setting of the [Magnificat](#) by [Giovanni Battista Pergolesi](#) (pictured left) who is probably best known chorally for his setting of the Stabat mater. Alas, Pergolesi was a casualty of tuberculosis and died at the very early age of 26. In fact, this setting of the Magnificat is now known not to be by Pergolesi, but rather by one [Francesco Durante](#) (1684 - 1755) (pictured right). Putting Pergolesi on the posters however, is perhaps a better "crowd puller" than Durante! We also performed a little known but beautiful motet by [Anton Bruckner](#) (1824 - 1896), his setting of the [Libera me](#) composed in 1854. Unusually for Bruckner, this is a motet with



accompaniment: organ, low strings (cellos and double basses) and three trombones. The trombones also featured in the opening item of the concert: [In Ecclesiis](#), probably the most famous single work by the Italian composer and organist [Giovanni Gabrieli](#) (1557 - 1612) (pictured left). At St. Swithun's, we attempted to reproduce St. Mark's, Venice by having the brass players in the gallery areas of the hall. I think it came off quite well!

I had forgotten how much wonderful music was in this concert and I've enjoyed reminding myself how good it all is! Do join me by clicking on the links in blue; there are lots of versions of Mozart's



Vespers on YouTube to explore. Let me know which one you enjoyed the most! I nearly forgot to mention our four excellent soloists: **Alexandra Stevenson (soprano)** (pictured left), **Nick Pepin (counter tenor)**, **Adrian Green (tenor)**, and **Ed Saddington (bass baritone)** (pictured right).



For **WCMF 2014**, Winchester City and Sarisbury joined forces with Itchen Valley, Overton and Twyford (unusually the WCMF choirs were divided as 5 at Winchester to 2 at Romsey) to set sail for [Vaughan Williams: Sea Symphony](#) and [Stanford: Songs of the Fleet](#) in **Winchester Cathedral**. This was a very ambitious programme and I was glad that I was in the orchestra rather than conducting! **Derek Beck** was at the helm for this nautical programme; and we were joined by **Cecilia**



Osmund as the soprano soloist and **Steven Gadd** (pictured left) as the baritone soloist. For the record, Botley and Compton and Shawford joined forces to sing [Bob Chilcott: Requiem](#) and [Mendelssohn: Hymn of Praise](#) in **Romsey Abbey** a week later, under the baton of **David Burgess**.

In **June / July**, Winchester City Festival Choir had its annual "summer sing", which focused on "[Songs from the Shows](#)"! The summer singers had a go at selections from three different musicals: "My Fair Lady", "Oliver!" and "Les Miserables" which went down well. Some of the summer singers even got to perform these publicly, in a concert alongside [Southampton Concert Wind Band](#) at Chandler's Ford Methodist Church.

In **November**, Sarisbury Choral was part of a "come and sing" performance of the Choral Suite of [Karl Jenkins: The Armed Man](#) alongside singers from choirs in the area. This was the first in what was an annual event for a while at **St. James' Church, West End, Southampton** and this event was part of the commemoration of the centenary of the beginning of the Great War. The organist on this occasion was **Richard Dewland**



(pictured left), the soloist for the Kyrie was (at the time) 14-year old **Elizabeth Fletcher** who in 2021 is currently studying on the BMus Vocal Performance course at Trinity Laban. The cellist for the Benedictus was **Rev Thomas Wharton** (pictured right) who at the time, was Priest-in-charge at the church and is now the Vicar of Romsey.



In **December**, Sarisbury Choral included the "Christmas bit" of [Handel's Messiah](#) into their Christmas concert, which was once again at St. Paul's Church, Sarisbury Green. 2014 was the blue carol book year, so we sang items from Carols for Choirs 3, including [Angel Tidings](#) and the [Flemish Carol](#). **Sophie Aynsley** played piano and briefly headed up the gallery to play organ continuo for the Handel items. Our soloist was soprano **Sarah Pownall** who almost immediately after Christmas, headed off to New Zealand to study music at the University of Canterbury in Christchurch, NZ! We were also joined by a string quartet, which was (I think): Hannah Preston (violin), Fi Jeppsson (violin), Mel Maloney (viola) and Kelly-Jo Peters (cello).

Winchester City had a carol concert at Littleton, which was kept fairly simple, mainly because of a rather special annual concert on the way in the New Year. We did, however, perform the first movement of [Rutter's Gloria](#). More about that in the next newsletter!

That's all for this week folks, I hope you've enjoyed having a newsletter again this week.

Stay safe and keep singing!

Graham