

# Salisbury Choral Society

# NEWSLETTER

THURSDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2021

Welcome to another edition of ramblings from the conductor!

I hope the newsletter continues to find you well. How is it the middle of July already?!

We continue our reminiscing through the archive; and find ourselves at the year **2015**.

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## From the Archives: 2015

At the beginning of 2015, Winchester City Festival Choir had their annual concert at St. Swithun's in **January** (or it might have been the beginning of **February**) with quite an innovative programme of music composed in the 20<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup> century!



The oldest piece in the programme was the setting of the [Gloria](#) by [John Rutter](#) (pictured left), an exciting and quite challenging work to perform and definitely one of my favourites to conduct! I'm getting a bit twitchy just listening to it... alongside this, we gave a highly memorable performance of the [Tsunami Requiem](#) by [Chris Williams](#). For those unfamiliar with this work (especially Salisbury readers), this piece was composed in response to the devastating tsunami on Boxing Day 2004. By coincidence, our performance was very close to the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of that event. For some more context, here is the composer in conversation about the work: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VRqDcTMnkk0>

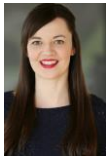
Also on the menu for this concert were two very reflective pieces: the [Ubi caritas](#) by the Welsh composer [Paul Mealar](#). This anthem achieved fame by being included in the wedding of William and Kate. The other choral item was [O Lord support us](#) by the English organist and composer [David Briggs](#) who was formerly Director of Music at Truro and Gloucester Cathedrals; and now lives and works in New York! More on David Briggs in a future newsletter, as WCFC members might guess!

For this concert we were ably supported by a team of excellent brass and percussion players, organist **Sam Hanson**, who is currently Director of Music at St. Peter's Church, Hammersmith and Assistant Chorus Director / Accompanist to Bournemouth Symphony Chorus. We were also joined by singers from the **Romsey School**, who sang music by Karl Jenkins, as well as the "children's choir" part in the Tsunami Requiem.



A very emotional, exhilarating programme, worthy of repeating... and I note that the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the dreadful tsunami isn't that far off...

For **WCMF 2015**, Winchester City and Sarisbury joined forces with Botley and Compton and Shawford to perform Brahms: Requiem and Parry: Blest Pair of Sirens in **Winchester Cathedral**. (I



just had to choose this YouTube version of the Parry, conducted by Sir David Willcocks). **John Sutton** was at the helm for this programme; and we were joined by **Helen Bailey** as the soprano soloist (see picture left) and **Andrew de Silva** as the baritone soloist. Until recently, Andrew was a Lay Clerk at Winchester Cathedral and Headteacher of Fair Oak Junior School, but it now Head of Junior School at St. Edmund's School, Canterbury. For the record, Itchen Valley, Overton and Twyford joined forces to sing Handel's Messiah in **Romsey Abbey**, under the baton of **Derek Beck**.

In **June / July**, Winchester City Festival Choir had its annual "summer sing", which focused on selections from Carmen. The summer singers enjoyed showing off their operatic sides and enjoyed dressing up suitably for the informal performance!

In **October**, Sarisbury Choral were part of a "come and sing" performance of Vivaldi's Gloria alongside singers from choirs in the area. This was the second autumn "come and sing" to be held at **St. James' Church, West End, Southampton** and this event was part of a weekend to celebrate the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the church building! This was the first time that Sarisbury loosely collaborated with members of **Northwood String Orchestra** alongside other musical friends who live in the locality. Our soloists for the event were **Katie Ball** (soprano) and **Fiona Jeppsson** (mezzo soprano). A special mention for the oboist **Fiona Jones** who now lives and works in Sweden and organist **Jon Pilgrim** who at the time, was studying for a Music degree at Southampton University and is now Assistant Organist at Brecon Cathedral in Wales.

Come and Sing  
**Vivaldi Gloria**  
Saturday 24th October 2015  
St James' Church, West End, Southampton  
Rehearsal: 4.15 - 5.30pm, Performance: 6.30 - 7.30pm  
Conductor: Graham Kidd  
Soprano Soloist: Katie Ball  
Mezzo Soprano Soloist: Fiona Jeppsson  
With string ensemble  
Sarisbury Choral Society invites you to come and sing Vivaldi's 'Gloria', as part of the St James' Church 125th Anniversary weekend. Please bring your own copy of the score if possible. It is free to sing, but copies of the score may be rented for £4. Please contact the friends of St James' Church at [friendsofstjameschurch@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofstjameschurch@gmail.com) if you are interested in renting a score.  
Refreshments will be available in the hall between the rehearsal and performance.  
All non-singers are welcome to come and listen to the performance! Entry is free.



In **December**, Sarisbury Choral included the "Advent bit" of Handel's Messiah into their Christmas concert, which was once again at St. Paul's Church, Sarisbury Green. 2015 was the green carol book year, so we sang items from Carols for Choirs 1. **Sophie Aynsley** played piano and violin (but not at the same time) and was joined in the orchestra by Fi Jeppsson (violin), Mel Maloney (viola) and Leah Packer (cello). Our soloist was mezzo soprano **Lillian Sediles** and in the organ loft was **Will**

**Duxson** who at the time for playing for us was studying for a Music degree at Southampton University. Will is now making a name for himself as a composer of video game music: <https://willduxson.github.io/index.html>

Winchester City had a carol concert at Littleton, which was kept fairly simple, but featured some beautiful carols such as the version of "In the bleak midwinter" by Harold Darke and the arrangement of "Still, still, still" by Philip Ledger. We also slotted in the first movement of Vivaldi's Gloria, which has already had a mention this week, but gets another one in the next newsletter!

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That's all for this week folks, except to say that there is no newsletter next week, due to the **zoom singing session** next Wednesday **21<sup>st</sup> July 7pm - 8pm**.

Stay safe and keep singing!

Graham