

WORKS FOR 2015

Elgar - Dream of Gerontius	21/03/2015
Rutter - Feel the Spirit Tippett - Negro Spirituals Taylor - I have a dream (Max Taylor will be attending the performance.)	20/06/2015
Pekkonen - Russian Requiem (Elis Pekkonen will be present) Haydn – Paukenmesse (Mass in time of war.)	14/11/2015
Handel - Messiah	12/12/2015

REHEARSALS SPRING TERM 2015

Normally rehearsals take place on **Wednesdays** in the Hall at Ripon Grammar School at 19.30 (Exceptions are shown below). (NB in the 2nd week of February the rehearsal will take place on Tuesday 10th).

7 January - 4 February All at RGS

10 February TBC

18 February Holy Trinity Church

25 February RGS

4 March Holy Trinity Church

11 March and 18 March RGS

20 March (Friday Ripon Cathedral 19.30)

21 March (Saturday Ripon Cathedral 13.15 for 13.30 start)

25 March RGS

1 April Holy Trinity Church

RCS 60TH ANNIVERSARY SOCIAL EVENT

This took place in Mickley Village Hall on **Tuesday 30th September**.

It was an enjoyable evening facilitated by Ros Higson and her helpers. Many thanks to everyone and especially to Ros for organising.

A music quiz was created by John Kiberd and this encouraged much conversation as people shared ideas with one another. Thanks to you John.

Please let a member of the committee know if you would like a social event during 2015 and what would be your preferred time of year and format – even better if you would like to offer to help in arranging it!

Need help with your voice part. If you use **Choral Line** <http://www.choraline.com/> to purchase CDs or to download MP3 files, then by using **RIPON** or **RCSC** you will get a 10% discount.

VOICE PART REPRESENTATIVES

Currently the voice representatives and their contact details are:

Annabelle Polito – Soprano

mobile 07960 340 515, home 01423 331 993,
annabelle.polito@btinternet.com

Jane Ickringill – Alto

01423 8874221

John Kiberd – Tenor

01969 625523 or a.john.kiberd@gmail.com

Patrick Earle – Bass

07843 724115 or patrickearle@lineone.net

It is these people who are there to act as your first port of call if you or anyone else you know in the choir needs any support. This could be, for example, if you know of someone who is ill and who would appreciate some communication from the choir, someone who has recently been bereaved, someone who might appreciate some transport to and from rehearsals due to age or recent illness.

There are also other matters which can be referred to your voice part representative. Do you have any points to raise about rehearsals/performances? Have you any ideas to improve communications both internally and with potential members?

Is there anything you would like raised at Committee meetings?

RAISING THE PROFILE OF RCS THROUGH PRESS RELEASES

Do you have expertise in this area? Do let the Chairman or Secretary know if you are willing to help.

Otherwise if you would like to acquire some skills in this area, we have an organization who will provide some free learning.

Only a few hours in total, at a time and venue to suit you. For more information, contact one of our patrons – Roy Smith on 07736 000497 or

roy.smith@mrsconsultancy.com

MESSAGE FROM IRENE HALL (TREASURER)

The Choral Society website has been updated and now contains subscription information - please see

<http://www.riponchoralsociety.org.uk/index.php/general-information>.

For those of you new to the Society this season - there is a link to the society's Gift Aid form. If you are a UK tax payer and would be happy to Gift Aid your subscription, at no additional cost to yourself, then please download the Gift Aid form from the website and return the completed form to the Treasurer (Irene Hall) at any rehearsal. This is a really useful income stream for the Society, raising nearly £3000 last season.

NEWSLETTER

RIPON CHORAL SOCIETY

FUND-RAISING OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEMBERS

CAROLS AT FOUNTAINS CHRISTMAS

2014

A big thank you to those who turned out in the freezing cold to sing carols at fountains abbey between Christmas and New Year. A special thank you to our 'bucket shakers' - we raised nearly £80 in the bucket (after gifts to accompanist etc) and that will be boosted further by a £100 performing 'fee' from the abbey themselves.



“SMALL CHOIR” OR “WEDDING SINGERS”

John Kiberd – Committee Member and Tenor representative has kindly agreed to take over the responsibility for organising this service offered by RCS.

You might recall the insert in the Messiah programme:

Make your special day perfect. From leading the hymn singing to performing music for the signing of the register, Ripon Choral Society can provide small groups of singers

John is currently updating his list of members willing to offer themselves for this service which both raises the profile of the choir and also brings in additional finance.

If you are arranging a wedding, don't forget the discount for members!

John can be contacted for further information at rehearsals or on 01969 625523 or email him on a.john.kiberd@gmail.com

ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES

We are very grateful to local businesses who currently advertise with us but feel we could recruit more.

Would you consider helping in this matter either through your own business or by recruiting other businesses in the area?

If so, please contact the Secretary. Thank you for considering this.

Massive Messiah from Scratch - Sunday February 1st 2015 – Gateways School, Harewood

From its very earliest performance Messiah has been linked with charity. As someone who has been fortunate enough to have come through cancer over seven years ago I am keen to raise money for charities linked to this dreadful disease.

On Sunday, February 1st, in the afternoon I am giving a third performance of this great piece in the Performing Arts Centre at Gateways School in Harewood, where I have recently moved to the position of Director of Music, to raise money for the schools' chosen charity this year, St Gemma's Hospice.

I want to make this an extraordinary community event by forming a choir of 250+ singers drawn from a good proportion of Wetherby Choral Society & Ripon Choral Society and I would warmly welcome members of other local choirs to swell the ranks of those singing and help to create both an excellent performance while at the same time raising much needed funds for St Gemma's Hospice. We will be accompanied by the Wetherby Pro Musica Orchestra and Kristina James, Julianne Jennings, Thom Meredith and I will sing the solos.

The marvellous Performing Arts Centre at Gateways School can accommodate about 400 people and on this occasion I am simply running a performance without rehearsal. This is living a musical life on the edge but I am certain we can have a great deal of fun and produce a phenomenal performance with our minds being focused, as they will need to be! Those who wish to listen will be most welcome and will sit amongst the choir and copies of the music are available for those who wish to follow or join in where they think they can.

The cost for any adult either to sing in the huge choir or to listen is £10 (though you may feel able to give more). Through envelopes, which St Gemma's Hospice is supplying, all monies will be collected on the concert day and this will include gift-aided donations.

The timetable for the day is as follows:-

- 2.30p.m. arrive – seating and donation collection – instructions!
- 3.00p.m. performance
- 4.00p.m. interval with refreshments – donations welcomed to cover the cost.
- 5.30p.m. finish

Smart casual dress will be very acceptable for the occasion. Please bring your own copy if you have one – Watkins Shaw edition preferred but any edition will suit. Copies will be available if you do not have one.

Please publicise the event to those who have sung Messiah before to make the biggest choral sound we can possibly achieve!

To get to Gateways School, from Harrogate turn left and from Leeds turn right at the traffic lights in Harewood towards Collingham and Wetherby. The entrance to the school is the turning to the right after the last houses in the village. From Wetherby and Collingham the turn to the car park is the first turn on the left before you reach the houses.

I look forward to meeting, greeting and making music with you on February 1st 2015. Please could you send me an email with approximate numbers of people who might join us to john.dunford@gatewayschool.co.uk

John Dunford – Director of Music, Gateways School. Conductor Wetherby & Ripon Choral Societies.
Director of Music, Gateways School