



CONCORDIA
SINGERS

Programme & Information

2008 to 2011

www.concordia.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 273333

History

Concordia Singers is a choir of 50+ mixed voices. We have enjoyed over 40 years of singing and continue to be forward-looking, enjoying the challenge of learning new works as well as performing the core repertoire.

Our reputation as an established choir in the Surrey and Sussex area is based on the quality of our performances. We pride ourselves on producing varied musical programmes, working with young professional soloists and orchestras, involvement with other music groups and performing charitable concerts when we can.

Our members come from a wide area of Surrey and Sussex, and even further afield. Venues for concerts match this geographical spread, and have included The Hawth in Crawley, Dorking Halls, and various parish churches in Horsham, and Crawley.

Varied Programmes

We usually perform three main concerts per year, with other performances and events as and when the opportunity arises.

Concordia also prides itself for its friendly and welcoming atmosphere. Whether it's a quick pint after a rehearsal or a choir social, our family atmosphere is important to us. There's more to joining a choir than just grafting away for concerts (although we take that seriously, too)!

See Membership Information on page 7 for more details, or if you have any general enquiries please contact Marguerite Clifford on 01342 811252 or email info@concordia.org.uk

Calendar

All rehearsals are on Thursday evenings at Christ Church, Pound Hill, between 7.45pm and 9.45pm unless otherwise specified.

Season: 2008 – 2009

Autumn Term: Introductory Come & Sing – 4.9.08

Main rehearsal period 11.9.08 to 27.11.08 [Half Term: 23.10.08]

Concert: Saturday 29th November 2008

Spring Term

8.1.09 to 2.4.09 [Half Term: 19.2.09]

Concert: Sunday 5th April 2009 [Palm Sunday]

Summer Term

23.4.09 to 25.6.09 [Half Term: 28.5.09]

Concert: Saturday 27th June 2009

Season: 2009 – 2010

Autumn Term: Introductory Come & Sing – 3.9.09

Main rehearsal period 10.9.09 to 26.11.09 [Half Term: 22.10.09]

Concert: Saturday 28th November 2009

Spring Term

7.1.10 to 25.3.10 [Half Term: 18.2.10]

Concert: Sunday 28th March 2010 [Palm Sunday]

Summer Term

22.4.10 to 24.6.10 [Half Term: 27.5.10]

Concert: Saturday 26th June 2010

Season: 2010 – 2011

Autumn Term: Introductory Come & Sing – 2.9.10

Main rehearsal period 11.9.10 to 25.11.10 [Half Term: 21.10.10]

Concert: Saturday 27th November 2010

Spring Term

6.1.11 to 7.4.11 [Half Term: 17.2.11]

Concert: Sunday 10th April 2011 [Palm Sunday]

Summer Term

21.4.11 to 23.6.11 [Half Term: 26.5.11]

Concert: Saturday 25th June 2011

Musical Director

Philip has been Artistic Director and Conductor of Concordia Singers since 1996. His friendly but demanding style has maintained the high standard of the choir's performances and widened its horizons.

Philip studied composition, trumpet and conducting at the Royal Academy of Music where he is now Registrar & Head of International Affairs. Philip gained ten prizes there as well as a Leverhulme Scholarship and a Munster Trust Award. His music has been performed in many concert halls in the United Kingdom and has also been played on BBC Radio Three, Radio Four and Channel 4 TV. In March 2001 he was elected a Fellow of the Academy.

Philip has performed extensively as a conductor particularly on London's South Bank including the Royal Festival and Queen Elizabeth Halls. His 'Intrada and Variations' for Two Trumpets and String Orchestra was performed twice at St. John's, Smith Square. His Violin Concerto was premiered by the Insurance Orchestra at the Royal Festival Hall under his direction as was his tone poem 'The Day Will Come'.

Philip's cantata 'When all the Earth is Paradise' was premiered in November 1997 at the Dorking Halls with soloists James Bowman, Alan Opie and Julie Kennard. His music is published by Brass Wind Publications and Spartan Press

As well as his work for the Academy, Philip is an examiner for the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music and an adjudicator for The British Federation of Festivals. He is also founder and director of the Marylebone Sinfonia which accompanies Concordia for larger-scale concerts.

Concordia and the Community

Concordia has enjoyed working and performing with other choirs and orchestras. For instance, we celebrated the diversity of world music in a joint concert with Sutton High School Girls' Choir and the Dunnottar Chamber Choir (to name but two) for a spectacle of international song and dance.

Concerts jointly with other choirs have resulted in performances of Brahms' German Requiem in The Hawth and Elgar's Dream of Gerontius in the Dorking Halls.

We regularly perform with the Marylebone Sinfonia, a young professional orchestra which was founded by our Musical Director Philip White, mainly from *Royal Academy of Music* graduates and postgraduates. We also perform with young professional soloists, many based at the London music colleges.



When the opportunity arises we like to work closely with other musicians in our community and have enjoyed performing with young musicians such as *the Brambletye Bellringers* and the *West Sussex Youth Choir*.

Charity events in recent years have raised funds for organisations such as the Towersey Foundation which provides music for patients in palliative care.

A Towersey Foundation event

The Handel Project



In November 2006, partly in response to a request by singing members to try out new, yet approachable, repertoire we programmed Handel's lesser-known oratorio 'Jephtha'. This proved to be such a success that the choir decided to embark on a longer-term project to perform more of Handel's oratorios. These, you will see from the planned programmes, will be performed at the November concert at the start of each new season.

Handel's music is rich in variety and colour. What makes it so attractive to the singer is its combination of ever-changing invention, irrepressible energy, delightful use of melody and harmony, and a ceaseless enjoyment for the performer both at rehearsal and in concert.

Handel was born in Hallé in 1685. Although German by birth he spent his adult life in England becoming a naturalised citizen in 1727. Most noted among choral societies for composing 'Messiah' Handel also wrote many other fine oratorios. Concordia Singers performed both Jephtha and Joshua in 2006 and 2007 to great acclaim and look forward to singing Samson, Judas Maccabaeus and Solomon in the seasons ahead.

Such is the importance of this project that special Handel appreciation evenings will be combined with a 'Come & Sing' during the first rehearsal in September of each new season.

Fundraising and Sponsorship

Concordia Singers are pursuing an ongoing plan to rebuild their membership through both singing members and external sponsors.

In order to stage quality concerts with professional musicians we need to ensure that we have enough financial backing to maintain the high standards we have enjoyed in the past few years. The singing members themselves have invested greatly in their future (and continue to do so) but it is imperative that we engage with others (businesses and individuals) to continue to ensure that we have a secure financial base on which to grow.

There are two types of support:-

Advertising

- £100 for half page advertisement in programme
- £175 for full page advertisement in programme

Sponsorship

- £350 to sponsorship a soloist (to include 5 free tickets for every concert in the season + free ½ page advert)
- £250 to sponsor an instrumentalist (to include 2 free tickets for every concert in the season + free ½ page advert)
- Concordia Bursaries:
 - £100 to support free membership for one year for new singing members under the age of 25 (+ programme acknowledgement)

Membership Information

There are three types of membership – singing, individual, and corporate. They are all equally important and each is required to sustain Concordia Singers into the future.

Singing - Our 50+ choir members have many reasons for singing with Concordia. Some do it because singing helps to relieve the stresses and strains of everyday life. Some do it for the “buzz”. Some do it to socialise. All of them enjoy it. Concordia enjoys the challenge of a varied repertoire and prides itself on putting on imaginative concerts for everyone to enjoy. This means that we can extract maximum enjoyment from our music-making. The high standards we achieve in performance come from our Musical Director’s commitment to developing the potential of all our singers. We learn, we improve, we perform to the best of our ability, and we enjoy it. If you can read music and are able to sing in tune then you are probably just the person we are looking for. Still unsure? Why not come to a few rehearsals before you decide whether to join us or not. If you just prefer to watch a rehearsal to see what we do, that’s no problem for us either. There will be no pressure for you to join in.

Individual – The Concordia Friends Scheme is a simple way of donating money to the choir and helping it fund its many activities. Special concessions are available on ticket prices according to the size of the donation. Annual fee - £25.

For more information, please contact Marguerite Clifford on 01342 811252 or send an email to info@concordia.org.uk.

Corporate – see Fundraising & Sponsorship on Page 8

Season 2008 - 2009

November 29th 2008 at St Nicholas Church, Worth

G F Handel



Samson

Based on a libretto by Newburgh Hamilton (who based it on Milton's *Samson Agonistes*), *Samson* is considered one of Handel's finest dramatic works. The premiere was given in London on February 18, 1743 followed by seven performances in its first season, the most in a single season of any of his oratorios. *Samson* was a favourite in Handel's lifetime.

April 5th 2009 at Christ Church, Pound Hill

Music of the Angels

An exploration of music for harp and voices including works by Janacek and Holst. Concordia Singers are joined by Professor Skaila Kanga, Head of the Harp faculty at the *Royal Academy of Music*, who will talk about the development of the harp and play works written for solo harp as well as choir and harp.

June 27th 2009 at St Nicholas Church, Worth

Sacred Music: Renaissance to the Present Day

An exploration of sacred music from different countries and cultures from the Renaissance period through to the present day. Featuring choral and solo music both à capella and with organ accompaniment from Tallis to Taverner. This will be a feast of some of the most beautiful choral works ever written.

Season 2009 – 2010

November 28th 2009 at St Nicholas Church, Worth

G F Handel

Judas Maccabaeus



Judas Maccabeus (or Judah the Hammer) was the third son of the Jewish priest Mattathias. He led the Maccabean revolt against the Seleucid Empire (167BC-160BC) and is acclaimed as one of the greatest warriors in Jewish history alongside Joshua, Gideon and David. Handel wrote his setting in 1746 basing it on the Jacobite Rising

March 28th 2010 at Christ Church, Pound Hill

Come Blow your Horn



Richard Watkins, former Principal Horn of the Philharmonia Orchestra shows how the horn developed through the ages and how it is used today both as an orchestral and solo instrument. Dorking Brass Quintet also join the choir in works for voices and brass.

June 26th 2010 at St Mark's Church, Horsham

Johann Hummel

Mass in D minor



A joint concert with

Dorking Camerata

Also featuring other lesser-known works of the classical period - not often performed, but as beautiful as Hummel's Mass in D minor.

Season 2010 - 2011

November 27th 2010 at St Nicholas Church, Worth

G F Handel

Solomon



The libretto of Solomon is based on the biblical stories of the wise king and is attributed to Newburgh Hamilton. The music was composed in 1748 and the first performance took place in London in 1749.

April 10th 2011 at Christ Church, Pound Hill

O Waly Waly

A thorough exploration of folk song, featuring some of the most beautiful choral settings from composers worldwide. Also featuring settings and accompaniments written for the Classical Accordion and starring Owen Murray, one of the world's finest exponents of the instrument. The concert will include a new commission for voices and accordion by Philip White.

June 25th 2011 at St Nicholas Church, Worth

Mozart's Lighter Moments



An exploration of Mozart's decadent music and writings, with excerpts from his letters read by Ian Partridge. This will be an amusing insight into the mind of Mozart and how his father's strict upbringing affected him from an early age as he was shunted around Europe to play for the great and the good.