



LINCOLN CHORAL SOCIETY

Founded 1896

Registered charity no 505023

President: The Precentor of Lincoln

LINCOLN CHORAL SOCIETY *SUMMER NEWSLETTER* *2023*

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Musical Director: Mark Wilde

Conductor Emeritus: Neville Turner

<https://lincolnchoralsociety.org>

Dates for your diaries at-a-glance

Monday 11 September 2023 – Autumn term begins. Rehearsal in the Isaac Newton Lecture Theatre

Saturday 4 November 2023 – Concert in the Lincoln Cathedral – Stanford Via Victrix

Monday 6 November 2023 – AGM

Monday 18, 25 December 2023, 1 January 2024 – Christmas break.

Monday 8 January 2024 – Spring term begins.

Monday 1 April 2024 – Easter break.

Monday 8 April 2024 – Summer term begins.

Saturday 20 April 2024 – Concert in Lincoln Cathedral – Handel Saul

The AGM will be on **Monday 6 November 2023** and will be followed by drinks & nibbles. Please volunteer and make sure you have the Committee you want by being part of it! Nominations are welcome for any of the committee positions. The Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer are the Trustees of the charity. If you don't feel able to offer that level of commitment, there are many ways in which you can assist in the running of the Society. Please speak to the Chairman or Secretary to find out more!

From Liz Murray – Chairman

We have now settled into the Isaac Newton Lecture Theatre at the University of Lincoln and it feels like home (although I am still trying to sort out the access issues). Our Choral Scholars for this year, Ceridwen, Elly, Will and Tom, have been a joy to sing with, as have our Choral Apprentices. We have benefited so much from their input and enthusiasm.

The committee has reluctantly decided it must increase the subscription for the 2023-24 season. Our costs for concerts have risen considerably and both the numbers attending and the amount received in sponsorship have fallen. Please pay your subscription before term starts if at all possible. We hope that at least some members will feel able to support the Society by paying more than the minimum, as some do every year and as many did last year. We are very grateful to those who are able to do this; we recognise that it isn't possible for everyone.

Our concert in November was a departure from our usual pattern. We had originally planned the joint performance of Jonathan Dove's *There Was a Child* with Scunthorpe and District Choral Society in November 2020 (due to difficulty in obtaining a suitable date in the Cathedral) but this was delayed for obvious reasons. When it finally took place it was a spectacular success and I think nearly everyone who took part found it moving and exhilarating. We were joined by the Scunthorpe Co-operative Junior Choir and the choir from William Farr C of E Comprehensive School, and musicians from the Lindsey Chamber Orchestra, supplemented by players from around the country. Adrian Partington's conducting was superb. It was a huge honour to have Jonathan Dove himself present, along with Rosemary Van Allan, whose son was commemorated in the work. We also performed the world premiere of a specially commissioned work, *Trent*, and again were honoured to have the composer, Charlotte Harding, in the

audience. The logistics of arranging such a concert and the associated joint rehearsal were a challenge and my heartfelt thanks go to all who worked so hard to make this concert happen.

In December, we supported the Lincolnshire NHS Carol Service in the Cathedral, which was a lovely occasion, enhanced by singing an arrangement of O Holy Night by our Choral Scholar Elly Mills. In April we sang another long-delayed concert featuring Puccini's *Messa di Gloria* and Mascagni's *Cavalleria Rusticana*. I still have not got to grips with the Sicilian drinking songs and rather alarmingly a Sicilian friend of mine attended the concert (which she loved). An informal performance of Gilbert & Sullivan choruses and a fabulous *Come & Sing* rounded off the season. The *Come & Sing* was such a success we plan to hold another one next year. Many thanks to Mark and Ed for leading us and it was fantastic to have 90 people attending.

Our plans for next season are a performance of Stanford's little-known work *Via Victrix* in the Cathedral in November, and Handel's *Saul* in April. The cost of hiring the Cathedral is becoming an ever more significant part of the overall concert and we are reviewing its affordability. This may mean fewer concerts in the Cathedral in future. We have offered our services for the NHS Carol Service again this year.

My thanks go to all Committee members and choir officers – without the hard work of all concerned we simply wouldn't have a choir. If anyone would like to join in with the "behind-the-scenes" work of making the concerts happen and generally running the Society, please do consider standing for the Committee. None of us is there by right; we are elected each year by you, the members. There are eight members of the Committee, three of whom (Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer) are the Trustees of the Society, and a number of other officers; none of us is too proud to accept offers of assistance! So if you feel you could help, even if you don't want to be the lead person, please have a word with the relevant officer or me for an informal discussion.

Stay safe, everyone.

From Jo Johnston – Secretary

I would like to extend a warm welcome to you all to our 2023 – 2024 season. Both those who are returning and those new members who have decided to join us.

We have an up to date website (<https://lincolnchoralsociety.org>) which contains all the information about the choir that you should need including details of proposed concerts. It also includes a Member's area which contains details of rehearsals and how to join online rehearsals. I will email all members as soon as we know any updates relating to rehearsals or concerts. For those not on email details will be posted to you. It also has details of all the Society's Officers and the policies for safeguarding, complaints, risk management, data protection and managing volunteers. Please take the time to read the policies. If you don't have access to the Member's area please let me know.

From time to time members feel the need to migrate to a different voice section of the choir. It would be a courtesy to discuss this with the Musical Director before doing so.

From Norma Tutty – Chorus Secretary

Membership of the choir has increased steadily throughout the year, during which we have welcomed new singers from counties and countries far and wide. We are a vibrant and diverse bunch of people who find common ground in the music that we love and share.

Thanks to our Partnership and association with the University of Lincoln, the age profile of the choir has expanded downwards and the pleasing number of students from various departments who have joined us is great news. We are very fortunate in being able to enjoy the presence of our Choral Scholars and Apprentices amongst our ranks, their confidence and enthusiasm helps us all to learn.

Attendance over the year has been very good and the wide variety of our singing programme has had something for everyone. Please remember to ✓ the register each week, it really helps with the administration of the choir. If you know ahead of time that you are going to be away, for whatever reason, please feel free to mark it on the registers in advance. (Apologies in person via friends are, of course, always welcome!). If it's short notice or retrospective apologies, please notify me on the CHORUS SECRETARY address:

chorussec.lincolnchoralsociety@gmail.com

This means that the Secretary of the Society, (currently Jo), is not inundated with apologies meant for the Chorus Secretary!

Following the highly successful Come and Sing day we hosted at the end of term, I have received a good number of applications from singers wishing to join the already pleasing list of people wanting to join us in September. As always, those singing tenor and bass voice parts are greatly outnumbered by those applying for soprano and alto voices: please spread the word around your friends and contacts! In the first instance, prospective new Members should be encouraged to contact me to express interest in joining the choir by way of the chorussec email shown above.

Rehearsals are 7:30pm - 9:15pm on Monday evenings in The Isaac Newton Lecture Theatre, University of Lincoln, Brayford Campus. The facilities are wonderful and we are very fortunate in having such a state of the art home.

Uniform for major concerts in the year ahead will be the same as usual: black tie dinner suits with white shirts for men: women can wear long black skirts or trousers with black tops/jackets. For our smaller, often less formal performances such as Christmas and summer, dress code instructions will be given at the time.

I hope everyone has a good summer break (listening to Stanford's Via Victrix!) and I look forward to seeing you on 11th September 2023 for our first rehearsal.

From Mark Wilde – Musical Director

It has been a great year for the society in many ways: we have given two large scale concerts of thrilling music, we have performed in the cathedral twice, as well as give an entertaining showcase of Gilbert and Sullivan topsy-turviness.

In November we were involved in a thrilling evening in Scunthorpe (no, really!) performing Dove's There was a Child in the presence of the composer and the commissioner of the work. This is what Jonathan Dove said of the performance:

'Thank you, Mark Wilde, thank you Nina Bennet, thank you Lincoln Choral Society, Scunthorpe and District Choral Society, Scunthorpe Co-operative Junior Choir, the Choir of William Farr School, Lincolnshire Chamber Orchestra and Adrian Partington! Such a special performance: the

energy and the spirit was really wonderful! And what a huge collaboration! So glad Rosie and I could be there. Thank you!’

After that we performed in the Cathedral leading the singing at the NHS Carol Service ably conducted by one of our scholars, Elly.

In the spring we finally got to give the concert we intended to give in May 2020: Verismo! What an evening that was. You worked incredibly hard and it was a fantastic success. The Puccini was so stylish and polished whilst the Mascagni was majestic. The final chords of the Easter Hymn filling our Cathedral will live long in the memory. We had five wonderful soloists including our own India Simpson who gave an excellent debut as Lola.

Our summer of G&S provided a fitting period of levity and we entertained our friends and supporters in a wonderful evening. Thanks to all our home-grown soloists who were all fabulous.

A week later we hosted a very successful come-and-sing event focussed on Vivaldi’s Gloria. It was such a success that we will most certainly be running another come-and-sing next year. It raised money for the society and we have already picked up some new members as a result. Well done and heartfelt thanks to all who organised it.

Our association with the University continues to breathe new life into the Society with more members joining from within the university community as well as an important contribution from our wonderful young scholars and apprentices: Ceridwen, Elly, Will, and Tom; as well as Harriet, India, Jodie, and Harry. They have all been fabulous and it has been wonderful to have their voices join us. Sadly Elly, Jodie, and Harry are moving on from university and leaving Lincoln. We wish them all the very best in their future endeavours.

Thank you as ever to your committee who continue to work tirelessly to make the society run smoothly and ensure our concerts happen; and, of course, to Ed who is wonderful, and keeps us on track!

I cannot wait to discover what delights 2023/24 brings.

From Julia Woodthorpe – Librarian

When we start back on the 11th September, we will be rehearsing for our Cathedral concert of the 4th November: CV Stanford’s Mass “Via Victrix”. This is a seldom performed piece from this composer of many hymns, religious works, and compositions of several types. It’s going to take some work to do it justice, but having listened to excerpts, I am already enjoying it, and hope you will too.

Copies to **buy only** will be available because we have had a special batch printed with **updates**. Not many copies are available commercially and they won’t be the same. **The cost is a bargain at £10**, and of course ownership means you can scribble notes with no problems!

Quite a few have already been sold, but further copies are available for the beginning of term: do come early to pick yours up in time for the start of the rehearsal. Don’t forget **I need to record your name and payment method too**.

Payment in September should be possible by card, and as usual bank transfer and cheque are acceptable. As £10 is an easy amount, I will also accept cash on this occasion - notes preferred!

Our April Concert will also take place in the Cathedral on Saturday the 20th of April at the usual time of 7.30 pm. We will perform Handel's "Saul", from the Novello score. We will have some copies to hire, but you may like to buy your own. Prices after a quick check range from £11-£15 excluding delivery. The hire charge is likely to be similar, but refundable.

I look forward to helping you to your next score, but please note my cardinal rule: whether you are one of the very few entitled to a free score or otherwise, I need **to record your name and payment method** where his applies.

Happy Singing

From Paulina Grasso – Social Secretary

After many quiet terms for the Social Fund due to Covid, this year has been a very exciting one!

Let me start by saying how much we appreciate your support by donating incredible prizes for the raffles. They allowed us to hold our first Christmas raffle since 2019, a huge hamper filled with amazing goods, and we collected a total of £167.50. Also, we were able to resume weekly raffles (thanks to Angela Suttle's invaluable help), raising a total of around £260. A massive thank you to you all!

These funds enabled us to offer refreshments during the AGM (which we hope you all enjoyed!), as well as contribute to interval refreshments for the Verismo! concert with FFM, who kindly donated the drinks and set everything up, and also add to Society funds.

As mentioned during rehearsals, we are once again starting our cake sale next term! We used to have some incredible bakers and we hope we can count on you once again after the break.

Thanks again and looking forward to seeing you all again in September.

From Charlotte Smirthwaite Walker – Friends' Secretary

A new design for the Friends' leaflet is well on the way. We hope to have these printed and ready for the next concert. This year, we've opted for a combined friends', sponsors and legacy leaflet to maximise the potential for raising funds. We all know how life-enhancing the joy of singing can be, and a great way to ensure that future generations of singers can continue to enjoy the choir is to leave a legacy. Please consider remembering the LCS when you next review your wishes in your Will – a legacy can make a significant contribution.

Don't forget that as a choir member, you're best placed to promote the Friends of LCS scheme. I would urge everyone to look to friends, colleagues and family who might be interested in coming to see you perform in future and encourage them to join the Friends' scheme when the membership renews at the start of 2024. The annual subscription remains at just £25 per individual and £45 per couple for an entire year! Membership of the scheme entitles Friends to a top-price ticket for each of our major concerts at a significant discount. Even if they don't intend to attend every concert, asking for friends and family to support us as a choir for just £25 is not a big ask. Thank you in advance for your efforts.

From Sue Marris – Treasurer – Subscriptions and Gift Aid information

I am coming to the end of my first year as Treasurer - it has been a steep learning curve! I was grateful to Anita, our outgoing Treasurer for her support in handing over the accounts and processes.

Annual Membership

The simplest way of settling your annual subscription is to pay it by bank transfer, so here are the details you need:

Bank: Lloyds

Sort Code: 30-92-93 Account No. 75115068

Reference: Your name followed by “subs” if there is space.

Gift Aid

Each year we receive over £1000 back from HMRC in Gift Aid, so a very big “thank you” to everyone who Gift Aids their subscription. If you are a tax payer and would like to join the scheme please fill in the attached Gift Aid form and return the hard copy to the Treasurer. The Gift Aid Declaration form is “ongoing”, so if you have already given us a form we can use it every year until you cancel it. BUT you will need to complete a new form if you have changed your name and/or address. [Click here to download a Gift Aid Form.](#)

If you belong to the scheme *it is your responsibility* to tell the Treasurer if you no longer pay tax. We need this information in writing or by email (treasurer.lincolnchoralsociety@gmail.com) so that we can file it with your records.

From Janet McNeill – Subscriptions Secretary

The membership form for 2023-2024 is available on the Lincoln Choral Society website, Members' Section. Click here to download either [PDF version](#) or [Word version](#). Please pay your subscription during August or at the beginning of September. If you cannot download and complete a form, there will be some printed copies available at choir rehearsals in September. My address and contact details are on the form if you would like to post a form to me.

The fees for full membership have increased to £130 this year. Please ensure you complete all 7 sections of the form, and remember to mark your bank transfer with your name followed by the word ‘subs’, as this makes my job a lot easier!

Anyone who successfully auditions and joins the choir from January 2024 onwards will pay a short subscription of £70. By completing the membership form you are agreeing under GDPR regulations for those office holders of the society who need your contact details, to inform you about rehearsal and concert details, and to retain the information for the year of membership. Hence a new form will be required to be completed each year. **Please write all information clearly – especially phone contact details and email addresses – so that you can be contacted easily when necessary.**