

Chairman's report Lincoln Choral Society November 2023

Since my last report a year ago we have had two main concerts. In November 2022 we travelled to Scunthorpe for an amazing concert. 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*. An informal performance of Gilbert & Sullivan choruses and a fabulous *Come & Sing* of Vivaldi's *Gloria* 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. Some of them have since joined the choir!

Our November concert, still ahead of us at the time of writing this report, will be Stanford's little known work *Via Victrix*; I will include this in next year's report. We plan to support the NHS Carol Service again this year although a date has yet to be confirmed. We are also in discussion around a Christmas concert. On 20 April 2024 we will be performing *Saul* in the Cathedral. We are planning a concert of Fauré's music in November 2024, which will probably not be in the Cathedral due to clashes with other events. More on this next year!

I'd like to thank all those who serve on the committee, and all those others who put in a huge amount of work behind the scenes to keep the Society running. Finally, I must thank Mark and Ed, two very high calibre musicians whose energy and enthusiasm keep us going! We do so appreciate you.