

## Report from Musical Director

It has been a fulfilling year at LCS in this 2023/24 season. We have given four concerts of a high standard and worked with some fine musicians and singers along the way. Stanford's Mass 'Via Victrix' was a huge musical success and marked the composer's centenary (a little early) suitably well. Our Christmas concert played to a packed St Faith's Church who were very welcoming. In the New Year we tackled Handel's great dramatic oratorio, Saul which was a real highlight of the year! We closed our season with a highly atmospheric concert of Fauré (another centenary) in Ss Peter & Paul Church; including his beautiful Requiem which we also spent a lovely day singing for our Come and Sing event. I hope we shall be returning to both St Faith's and Ss Peter & Paul again soon.

Next season sees us performing Messiah in the Cathedral for the first time in many years, collaborating with the Cathedral Choir and conducted by Aric Prentice. This will be a special performance and a little different too as we shall be doing the orchestration created by Mozart which included flutes, clarinets, and French horns. In May 2025 we shall give a very different concert in the cathedral of music by living composers: Cecilia McDowall, Will Todd, and Bob Chilcott. This will be a memorable concert of wonderful new music, dealing with engaging themes and styles; and we shall be collaborating with young musicians, and children's choirs from local schools.

Our scholars and apprentices have been a lovely team this year and really help our sound and sang superbly as soloists in our concerts too. It's been a joy to work with them.

The committee this year has changed quite significantly and I just want to take the opportunity to thank them all for their hard work and energy! And of course, I couldn't do it without our very own Ed Wellman by my side; thank you, Ed!