



# AXMINSTER & DISTRICT CHORAL SOCIETY



SoundBites – June 2019

A newsletter for members of Axminster & District Choral Society

Editor Juliet Henham

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Date	Event	Programme
15-Jun-19	Summer Concert	Handel, Acis and Galatea
18-Jun-19	Summer Term Ends	Bring and Share
03-Sept-19	Autumn Term Begins	
15-Oct-19	AGM	
16-Nov-19	November Concert	Puccini – Messa di Gloria, Elgar Psalm 29
14-Dec-19	Christmas Concert	West Gallery Christmas Concert
14-Dec-19	Autumn Term Ends	
07-Jan-20	Spring Term Begins	
04-Apr-20	Spring Term Ends	
04-Apr-20	Spring Concert	CPE Bach – St Matthew Passion
21-Apr-20	Summer Term Begins	
13-Jun-20	Summer Concert	Opera Choruses
16-Jun-20	Summer Term Ends	Bring and Share
08-Sep-20	Autumn Term Begins	
13-Oct-20	AGM	
14-Nov-20	November Concert	Beethoven Mass in C & Bruckner Requiem in D
19-Dec-20	Christmas Concert	Vivaldi Gloria & Christmas Hits
05-Jan-21	Spring Term Begins	
27-Mar-21	Spring Concert	Handel Messiah
27-Mar-21	Spring Term Ends	

## Chairman's Column

### Our repertoire

Each year in early spring the committee holds a repertoire meeting with the two Peters and your voice reps to decide future works to sing. We think we have an exciting programme which you will approve with enthusiasm. We have to plan two years ahead to make sure we can afford the orchestras and soloists and can borrow the scores from music libraries – and Elizabeth has done her research and thinks we can. So here is the list:-

Year	Concert	Date	Programme
2019	November		Puccini – Messa di Gloria, Elgar Psalm 29
2019	Christmas		West Gallery Christmas Concert
2020	Spring		CPE Bach – St Matthew Passion
2020	Summer		Opera Choruses
2020	November	14-Nov-20	Beeethoven Mass in C & Bruckner Requiem in D
2020	Christmas	19-Dec-20	Vivaldi Gloria & Christmas Hits
2021	Spring	27-Mar-21	Handel Messiah

There are a number of features of this programme that need a comment. The Christmas concert this year will be in the style of a West Gallery Choir event – a novel experience for some of us. More details below.

Peter (L-C) thinks that our CPE Bach's St Matthew Passion concert could be the first time it will have been performed in the UK. CPE plagiarises quite a lot from his Dad's work so you may well recognise quite a few choruses!

Rather than sing the Messiah in a "Come and Sing" event we will endeavour to put on a high-quality performance in the Spring concert of 2021 with orchestra and soloists.

We hope you like the choices.

### Publicity

Please think about how you might be able to help with publicity and take on part or all of Brian McConkey's role.

Cam Bowie

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## From the Librarian

### Returning your Acis and Galatea score

Please return your score at the end of the concert, or at the end of term Bring and Share on Tuesday June 18th. If you have any problems please let me know – 01404 43805 or [ejtwining@gmail.com](mailto:ejtwining@gmail.com).

### Autumn term music

I expect to have scores for autumn term music (Puccini Messa di Gloria and Elgar Psalm 29) to give out on June 18<sup>th</sup>. We will be having an introduction to them before we start eating. Copies will also be available when rehearsals restart in September. If you want to use or buy your own copies, the Puccini is the Mills Music 1952 edition. Later printings have the imprint Belwin or Belwin Mills but should otherwise be the same. For the Elgar I expect to have the old Novello edition as edited by Elgar, not the Bruce Wood edition of 2004. You may like to wait and borrow copies before you order so you can check you have the right ones.

### Thank you

Many thanks to all those who volunteer to help with rubbing out the orchestral parts. I couldn't cope without you.

Have a good summer

Elizabeth Twining

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### Rehearsal CDs

Over the past years I have made copies of rehearsal CDs for most of the major pieces that we have performed. These have emphasised the different voice parts while still leaving the others in the background. Unfortunately this service has now stopped as the CD copying machine died just before Easter and has been consigned to Silicon Heaven.

The files I put onto CDs all came from the Internet, and below I have listed the main sites where these can be found. MP3 files will play on many CD players and other devices. MIDI format files may need to be converted and I have given details of how to get a simple conversion app.

If you need any help, get hold of me at rehearsal!

<a href="http://www.cyberbass.com/">http://www.cyberbass.com/</a>	Listen – no download
<a href="http://www.learnchoralmusic.co.uk/">http://www.learnchoralmusic.co.uk/</a>	MIDI files
<a href="http://www.choralia.net/hn03mp3/">http://www.choralia.net/hn03mp3/</a>	MP3
<a href="http://www1.cpd.org/wiki/">http://www1.cpd.org/wiki/</a>	various formats
<a href="https://johnfletchermusic.org/">https://johnfletchermusic.org/</a>	Generally MP3 and MIDI. Requires registration

Converting MIDI to MP3

<https://www.nch.com.au/switch/index.html> (free option, for non-commercial use: avoid the “purchase now” button!)

If you don't want to go through this route, you can always get rehearsal CDs and other downloads (e.g. to play on your phone) from ChoraLine (<https://www.choraline.com>) . They cost, but you can get a discount by quoting our discount code of AXMINSTER.

Michael King

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## West Gallery Music

“ Be transported back to a time when parish churches rang with the sound of their own bands and choirs, comprising local amateur singers and instrumentalists. Where services were dominated by the music, of the style known as West Gallery and as used in later times as a backdrop for Thomas Hardy's writings. A merry evening of joyful, traditional Christmas music and carols.”

What is West Gallery Music?

From around the mid 1700s parish church music was predominantly provided by small choirs, accompanied by a band (of local trades folk with whichever instrument they happened to play). Their role was to lead the singing of psalms and an occasional anthem from purpose built galleries beneath the belfry at the western end of the church, facing the altar. Hence the modern term West Gallery Music, for what is also known among academics as Georgian psalmody. Upon the calling of the psalm number by the parish clerk, the congregation would turn to ‘face the music’, the possible source of the expression we still use today. As most singers and players were self-taught, this “rustic” heritage thus shaped the simplicity in the music. Eventually, the bands and choirs were replaced by a single organist and congregational singing, as we know today.

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## Choraline News

Choraline announced a partnership with Presto Music.

ChoraLine CDs & Presto Music

With effect from 28th May 2019 Presto Music will become the sole distributors of ChoraLine CDs.

Everything will remain as normal on the ChoraLine website but when you purchase a CD there will a direct link to the order page on the Presto Music website.

Presto Music are offering a special 20% discount on the purchase of ChoraLine CDs until the end of July 2019.

Vocal Scores and Performance CD orders made via the ChoraLine website will also be distributed by Presto Music.

If you use ChoraLine 'EasyPlay' (MP3) and the ChoraLine App there are no changes and these can be ordered as normal direct from the ChoraLine website or the App.

Alongside ChoraLine CDs, Presto offer an extensive catalogue of sheet music which includes over 150,000 choral and vocal scores - from major classical works by the likes of Bach, Handel and Mozart to modern favourites by John Rutter and Karl Jenkins, and arrangements of popular songs. Presto's offers a wide range of performances to buy on CD or to download, with sound samples and reviews available to help you choose.

Tel:01926 886883 Presto if you have any queries

For UK customers free delivery is available on all orders over £25.

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