



Chepstow Choral Society

Conducted by Graham Bull

Piano - Richard Kubiak & Marjorie Duerden

Ruby Anniversary Concert

***Celebrating 40 years of music
making in Chepstow***



Wednesday 3rd July, 2019

Arts Hall, Chepstow School 7.00pm

CCS is affiliated to Ty Cerdd – Music Centre Wales and Making Music – The National Federation of Music Societies. Registered charity no. 112

Tŷ Cerdd
Yrwyddia a ddiolli cerddoriaeth Cymru
promoting and enhancing the music of Wales

The Current Team

Musical Director	Graham Bull
Assistant Musical Director	Marjorie Duerden
Accompanist	Richard Kubiak
Chair	Sue Carter
Secretary	Angela Ham
Treasurer	Brian Duerden
Member Secretary	Jean Parkes
Publicity Secretary	Alison Bevan
Soprano Rep	Yvonne Copestake
Alto Rep	Christine Lovett
Male Rep	Hywel Williams
Social Secretary	Janet Ellard

THANK YOU to everyone who has been a member, served on the committee, been a guest performer, patron, attended concerts, or supported & helped out over the last 40 years ! From fixing orchestras, creating posters & programmes, organising uniform and selling tickets, to moving furniture, managing front of house, providing refreshments, designing the website and managing our new social media - we couldn't have done it without you all.

It is this generous spirit of help & support, along with the beautiful music that we are able to perform that makes Chepstow Choral Society a very special local organisation that we hope will be successful for many more years to come !

Ruby Anniversary Concert July 2019

Welcome to our Ruby Anniversary Celebration Concert. It is with great pleasure that I welcome you all here this evening to share with us the celebration of 40 years of wonderful music making by Chepstow Choral Society. From humble beginnings we have evolved into a choir of over sixty members, one that Chepstow should be incredibly proud of.

Our programme tonight reflects our varied repertoire over the last 40 years with some of our favourites included.

We hope that you enjoy our showcase tonight as much as we have enjoyed putting it together.

Please join us afterwards for a celebratory drink and light refreshments.

Sue Carter, Chair Chepstow Choral Society

Future Concerts

Sunday 8th December - Our festive Christmas concert - St Mary's Church, Chepstow @ 3pm

CCS welcomes new members!

Choral singing lifts the spirits and gives a sense of collective pleasure, and everyone in CCS is a member because they love singing – and we welcome new singers in all voice sections.

We do not have a formal audition policy and prospective members should contact Marjorie Duerden (tel. 01291 623310) or through the website link www.chepstowchoralsociety.org.uk . **No-one** is excluded on grounds of lack of previous choral experience, ability to play instruments, etc, - just come and enjoy singing!

And why not follow us on Facebook & Twitter ? @ChepstowChoral

We would kindly ask that you switch off all electronic devices during the concert, including cameras, and mobile phones. Thank you.

Programme

Gloria (Gloria)	(A Vivaldi)
Sanctus (Nelson Mass)	(J Haydn)
The Lord is My Shepherd	(H Goodall)
Hallelujah (Messiah)	(G Handel)

4 Waltzes (Liebeslieder)	(J Brahms)
I Will Give My Love an Apple	(arr M Mulliner)
Just As the Tide Was Flowing	(arr R Vaughan Williams)
Cwm Rhondda	(J Hughes)

BRIEF INTERVAL

Opening Chorus (Trial by Jury)	(Gilbert & Sullivan)
The Animals are Coming	(trad)
Evening Prayer	(E Humperdinck)
Andrew Lloyd Webber medley	(AL Webber)

Le Bon Village	(Swiss trad)
Christopher Robin is Saying His Prayers	(H Fraser Simson)
Viva La Musica	(I Erod)
Thank You For the Music	(ABBA)

Graham Bull – Conductor and Musical Director

Graham started his musical career as a chorister at Christ Church Cathedral School, Oxford. He gained his Music degree from Exeter University in 1981, specialising in conducting and composition. As a member of the BBC National Chorus of Wales for many years, he enjoyed singing under many leading conductors including Simon Rattle, Neville Marriner and John Elliott Gardiner, and being involved in countless broadcasts and recordings for BBC Radio 3 and TV, including several BBC Proms concerts. During the 1980s and 90s he also sung for and conducted the Cathedral Chamber Choir – directing services in St Paul's Cathedral and Westminster Abbey, as well as in provincial city cathedrals. Graham was appointed Musical Director of Chepstow Choral Society in 1998 and has helped the choir to build an enviable repertoire of classics and less frequently performed works. He is also Principal Conductor of Bristol Millennium Orchestra.

We'd like to offer Graham a very special thank you for all his hard work & support over the last 21 years !

Chepstow Choral Society History

The choir began its life as The Kingsmark Singers in 1979 when Anne Martin gathered together a group of enthusiastic singers and friends after discovering there was no mixed choral singing group in Chepstow at that time. Three months after formation, the choir performed its first concert, a Christmas one at Chepstow Leisure Centre – this was followed in subsequent years with a variety of concerts of all types, including one with the Welsh Guards and a Victorian Evening, along with the various church festival occasions. After some changes during the late eighties, Jeremy Winston, the vicar of St Arvans at the time, took over the choir and in 1991, after amalgamating with a St Arvans one, the choir was reconstituted with the name Chepstow Choral Society.

Jeremy was well known in the area and his personality ensured that the choir continued growing. In 1992 Jeremy oversaw the Passion Play which involved every musical organisation in Chepstow, but in 1993 he moved post to Abergavenny and Robin Stubbs took over the CCS Musical Directorship. Robin widened the repertoire of the choir to include some more “modern” works at that time – principally John Rutter's larger works – and there was more orchestral input.

However, the largest change of direction came in 1998 when the current musical director, Graham Bull took over. Graham was known in the area,

having been choirmaster at St Mary's Priory Church for a few years and teaching locally. His first concert with CCS took place in November 1998, three months after being appointed. It was a big charity concert for the National Meningitis Trust and the choir performed Mozart's Requiem, after the death of the son of a choir member from the disease.

During the two decades of Graham's directorship, the Choral Society has gone from strength to strength. Many of the choral "Jewels in the Crown" have been performed – the list is too long to mention but suffice to say that this has included such giants as Messiah, Elijah and Dream of Gerontius, a whole raft of Masses and Requiems – including Verdi's masterpiece as a joint venture with Pontypridd CS -- and some beautiful sacred and secular choral masterpieces. The choir performs the popular annual Christmas concert in St Mary's Priory Church, and there have been performances at Chepstow Castle during festival years. Particularly noteworthy have been the World War 1 commemorations for 1914 and 1918, Jubilee concerts in 2002 and 2012 and the Civic ceremonies for Chepstow Town and Monmouthshire councils. There have been numerous charity appearances and a "first" for the choir when invited to sing at Tintern Abbey last year for Tony Robinson's TV series "Britain's Ancient Tracks".

The Society has used an incredible number of professional orchestra players and soloists -- the list is formidable and remarkable for a small town choir that currently operates solely from the money earned through ticket sales, patrons and membership subscriptions. These performers really do make the major work concerts something rather special.

The choir has also enjoyed working with local music groups and in particular has been very supportive of the young musicians from our local schools, and a number of groups based at Beachley Barracks.

Music does not come "free" for anyone. Costs are involved, and in a modern age where so much has changed during the past 40 years, regulations and guidelines have to be followed. However, through it all, Chepstow Choral Society has continued to evolve. In 1979 the aims were to produce music that was enjoyable for performers and audience alike, at the best standard of which the group was capable – and to have fun doing it. 40 years later and nothing has changed. The computer and high tech age in which we live now has meant many changes in how this ethos is now delivered to an audience that is more diverse in its tastes – but Chepstow Choral Society will continue to provide this town and area with beautiful choral music - and continue to enjoy doing it!

Patrons, Supporters and Friends

CCS promotes and encourages music within the community through its concerts. We particularly foster and support young and aspiring musicians but our ticket sales rarely cover our costs of our concerts. Patrons (minimum subscription £30) receive a complimentary ticket for each concert, an invitation to our Patrons' evenings and their names are printed in each concert programme. This patronage helps us to arrange concerts confident that we can cover at least some of our costs. If you would like to join us please contact

Jean Parkes, Patrons and Membership Secretary, 13 Orchard Avenue, Chepstow NP16 5RD or contact on **01291 620414**

PATRONS OF CHEPSTOW CHORAL SOCIETY

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Dr Jonathan Carter	Ms S. K. Chesters
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Tintern Abbey – June 2017