



Chepstow Choral Society



Musical Director – Graham Bull

presents

A Summer Gala Concert

**Popular pieces from the world of opera
and musicals**

Wednesday, 29th June, 2016

Arts Hall, Chepstow School and Leisure
Centre, 7.00 pm

Angharad Morgan *Soprano*

Stephen Hamnett *Bass*

Ruth Rusling *Trumpet*

Marjorie Duerden *Piano*

CCS is affiliated to Ty Cerdd – Music Centre Wales
and Making Music

**TY CERDD**
MUSIC CENTRE WALES

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Welcome to our Summer Concert 2016

On behalf of Chepstow Choral Society I am delighted to welcome you all to our Summer Gala Concert.

It is with great pleasure that we welcome Angharad Morgan (Soprano), Stephen Hamnett (Bass) and Ruth Rusling (Trumpet) to join us tonight in a wonderful evening of music from the world of opera and musicals.

Tonight is a very special evening for our Assistant Musical Director, Marjorie Duerden. Marjorie joined Chepstow Choral Society in 1991 as a singing member and became its Assistant Musical Director in 2001. After many years of dedication it is time for her to retire from this position and return to the soprano section of the choir. Thank you Marje for all your hard work and your commitment to CCS over these last years. Have fun singing!

May I take this opportunity to thank you, our audience, for supporting the Society in keeping choral music alive in Chepstow. Without your support and encouragement this would not be possible.

Thank you also to our front of house team and unseen helpers who constantly work behind the scenes to ensure a smooth performance.

Please join us after this performance for light refreshments and a drink.

Sue Carter.

Chairman, Chepstow Choral Society.

The next CCS concerts!

Sunday, December 11th, 2016; 3.00pm

Christmas Celebration St Mary's Priory Church, Chepstow

Saturday, April 1st, 2017; 7.30pm

Mozart Requiem St Mary's Priory Church, Chepstow

www.chepstowchoralsociety.org.uk

Programme

Part 1

Choir

Bridal Chorus (*Lohengrin*) *Wagner*

Chorus of Wedding Guests (*Lucia di Lammermoor*) *Donizetti*

Choir and Soprano

Voyagers' Chorus (*Idomeneo*) *Mozart*

Duet – Soprano and Baritone

La' Ci Daren la Mano (*Don Giovanni*) *Mozart*

Choir and Baritone

Waltz Scene (*Eugene Onegin*) *Tchaikovsky*

Solo – Soprano

O Mio Babbino Caro (*Gianni Schicchi*) *Puccini*

Rusalka's Song to the Moon (*Rusalka*) *Dvořák*

Choir and Trumpet

Triumphal Scene (*Aida*) *Verdi*

Brief Interval

Part 2

Choir, Baritone and Trumpet

Entrance and March of the Peers & *W.S. Gilbert &*
When Britain Really Ruled the Waves *Sir Arthur Sullivan*
(*Iolanthe*)

Solo – Baritone

The Tale of the Oyster (*50 Thousand Frenchmen*) Cole Porter

Solo – Trumpet

Solo – Soprano & Duet – Soprano and Baritone

Summertime & George Gershwin

Bess You is My Woman Now (*Porgy and Bess*)

Choir

Choral Selection from *West Side Story* Leonard Bernstein
& Stephen Sondheim (arr. William Stickles)

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Please join us for light refreshments and drinks after the performance.
(Oysters will NOT be served this evening!)

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Angharad Morgan – Soprano

Angharad was born in South Wales and began singing at an early age. She is a graduate of the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama where she was awarded a full scholarship in 2000 and the Wales International Academy of Voice where she studied with International Tenor Dennis O'Neill and renowned Soprano Nuccia Focile. She continues to study under the tutelage of Nuccia Focile. She has also had the privilege of being tutored by Dame Kiri Te Kanawa. She is the recipient of the Valetta Jacobi Award for Sopranos, the Lee Freeman Memorial Scholarship and the Russell Sheppard Memorial Scholarship. In 2003 she won the title of Vale Singer of the Year, in 2011 was second in The London Welsh Singer of the Year Competition, and in 2013 she was a finalist of the prestigious MOCSA Competition.

Angharad has performed in a variety of venues both home and abroad and is renowned for her versatility and wide ranging repertoire. On the concert platform she has had the opportunity to work with some of Wales' most prestigious musical ensembles and soloists including duetting with Elin Manahan Thomas at St David's

Hall and with Jason Howard at the Wales Millennium Centre, and she has performed in concert with Bryn Terfel as one of the first recipients of the Bryn Terfel Foundation. Her concert and oratorio experience includes: Brahms *Requiem*; Mozart *Mass in C Minor*, *Vesperae Solennes de Confessore*, *Requiem*, *Mass in C* and *Exsultate Jubilate*; Handel *Messiah* and *Dixit Dominus*; Haydn *Maria Theresa Mass*, *Creation* and *Nelson Mass*; Dvořák *Requiem*; Fauré *Requiem*; Vivaldi *Gloria*; Rutter *Requiem* and *Magnificat*.

Operatic credits include Sandman *Hansel and Gretel*, Sister Blanche *Dialogue of the Carmelites*, Lucia *The Rape of Lucretia*, First Lady *Die Zauberflöte*, Miss Wordsworth *Albert Herring* and The Innkeepers Wife in *The Cunning Little Vixen* – all for RWCMD – Donna Elvira *'Don Giovanni'* for the Opera School of Wales, Second Woman in Delius *A Villiage Romeo and Juliet* and Peasant Farmer in Chabrier's *Le Roi Malgre Lui* for her Wexford Festival Opera debut. She has also performed Alice Ford (Cover) in *'Falstaff'* and Arminda in *'La Finta Giardiniera'* for Glyndebourne Festival Opera, and the Dew Fairy in *'Hansel Und Gretel'* for Glyndebourne Touring Opera. 2013 saw Angharad take her place at Glyndebourne Festival Opera where she was privileged to be one of three of the company's Jerwood Young Artists and where she created and played the role of Ione in newly commissioned work *Wakening Shadow* by Luke Styles. Last season's highlights included Marguerite in *Faust* for Swansea City Opera, Alice Ford for Opera Project and guest soloist at the Welsh Proms with the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra. This season Angharad performs the role of Musetta in *La Boheme* for Swansea City Opera, a production that tours throughout the UK.

Angharad is supported by both the Dennis O'Neill Foundation and the Bryn Terfel Foundation.

Stephen Hamnett – Bass/Baritone

Stephen is an alumnus of The Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama where he studied singing as part of his degree in music. Whilst there he took part in many performances and workshops including performances at St David's Hall, a Master Class with Sir Geraint Evans and the inaugural tour of the National Youth Choir of Wales. After gaining his degree, Stephen joined the choir of Llandaff Cathedral serving as principle Bass Lay Clerk for many years, while performing with many choirs and music groups throughout the UK and Europe. He regularly takes part in recordings and broadcasts.

Stephen now sings with Bristol, Worcester and Gloucester Cathedral choirs, the BBC National Orchestra of Wales Chorus, the BBC Singers, Cambrian consort, Fitzeharding consort, and is an extra chorus member with WNO; however most of his time is taken up with duties as a Second Bass in Only Men Aloud.

Ruth Rusling – *Trumpet*

Ruth started playing the piano in 1979, aged 6, and then moved on to the trumpet and cornet a year later. Her first trumpet solo was that same year, as a herald in her first school Christmas play. She progressed quickly and passed her grade 8 trumpet at the tender age of 12. She was involved in Worcestershire county music service groups and performed Haydn's trumpet concerto with the county orchestra whilst still at school. She was part of the fanfare group when Princess Diana opened the new Worcestershire County Hall and played at the Royal Albert Hall as part of the Kings Schools Anniversary concert in front of The Queen. She has been invited to play the trumpet for a number of scratch versions of *Messiah* and played for a short period with the Hull Philharmonic Orchestra including a film music special. Her main passion, however, is Brass Bands. She has been an active member of the Brass Band Movement since she started playing cornet and it has taken her all over Europe. She has had the fortune to compete at a number of levels in the national finals of the Brass Band Championships in such venues as The Royal Albert Hall and Birmingham Symphony Hall. She currently plays cornet for The Forest of Dean Brass and enjoys occasional trumpet work.

Marjorie Duerden – *Piano and Assistant Musical Director*

Marjorie commenced piano lessons on her eighth birthday with Herbert Shaw, a distinguished teacher in Nelson, Lancashire, and it was her principal instrumental study with Doreen Stanfield at the London College of Music (1967-1970), achieving her Licentiate Diploma (LLCM) during her Graduate course (GLCM). A post-graduate teaching diploma (PGCEd) at Lancaster in 1971 was followed by music teaching posts in Lancashire and Midlothian. She moved to Sheffield in late 1976 and within a year had established a growing piano teaching practice which thrived, seeing pupils progress from beginners level to Associate Diploma (ALCM) level in a couple of cases. Marjorie moved to Chepstow in 1991.

In addition to her piano work, Marjorie discovered a love for choral singing from an early age, which developed when at Nelson Grammar School, Lancashire, where she was fortunate to be a student of Dr Colin Hand, and continued through her College days. She was involved in all the College choral groups, and sang with the London Student Chorale. Between 1976 and 1991 she was a singing and committee member of Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus. Opportunities also arose to join with the Halle Chorus during this period, and Marjorie has fond and lasting memories of singing many of the great choral masterpieces with some of the most prominent national and international conductors of the time.

After coming to Chepstow in 1991, she joined Chepstow Choral Society and her musical activity centred on choral singing for several years, but in 1999 she shared some piano accompanying duties, subsequently becoming the Society's piano accompanist in 2001. This has resulted in performances in many of the Society's

concerts in recent years in both a solo and accompanying capacity, with Marjorie being privileged to play in some concerts requiring major piano involvement – most notably, Rossini's *Petite Messe Solennelle*, Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana* and Brahms's *Liebeslieder* (both piano duet), *Salute for Trafalgar 2005*, Coleridge-Taylor's *Hiawatha's Wedding*, Stanford's *Songs of the Fleet*, and many highly varied concert items ranging from oratorio, opera, cantatas, part songs, and medleys with choir and soloists alike, as well as playing continuo with the orchestra on numerous occasions (including Handel's *Messiah*, JS Bach's *St John Passion*, Vivaldi's *Gloria*, Haydn's *Nelson Mass*, Bruckner's *Requiem* to name but a few).

In recent years Marjorie has equally enjoyed the privilege of accompanying soloists, not only at CCS concerts but also for a variety of recitals, and with various ensembles both locally and further afield. Her love of the piano is as strong as it was when she commenced lessons – and will remain so! However, she also continues a deep personal interest and enthusiasm for her second love – choral singing – and working with Chepstow Choral Society to continue making “live” choral performances a reality in the smaller towns of our nation despite many current pressures.

Graham Bull – Conductor and Musical Director

Graham Bull 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 a host of 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 Exeter Cathedral Chamber Choir – directing services in St Paul's Cathedral and Westminster Abbey in London, as well as in provincial city cathedrals.

Graham took up the role of 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.

CCS always welcomes new members!

Singing lifts the spirits and brings happiness to those that do it! – singing in a choir also gives a sense of collective pleasure. Everyone in CCS just loves singing. We welcome new singers in all voice sections – soprano, alto, tenor and bass. If you would like to sing with us, we would love to hear from you. We do not have a formal audition policy. Prospective members should contact Marjorie Duerden (tel. 01291 623310 or through the website link). **No-one** is excluded from singing membership on grounds of lack of previous choral experience, ability to play instruments, etc, - many members have joined without any of these experiences.

Patrons, Supporters and Friends

Chepstow Choral Society strives to promote and encourage the art of music within the community by giving three or more public concert performances of choral music per year, often with orchestral accompaniment. While presenting these programmes, we foster and support young and aspiring musicians. This can only be done with financial support from the community as our ticket sales rarely cover the costs of our concerts.

In return for your annual subscription (minimum £30.00) you will receive: a complimentary ticket for each concert; an invitation to our Patrons' Supporters' and Friends' evening and your name will be printed in each concert programme. You will also have the satisfaction of knowing that your patronage will help us to arrange concerts confident in the knowledge that we have a secure income to cover at least some of our costs.

If you would like to join us please complete the membership form and return to:-

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

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