



perspectives

CHELTENHAMARTSCULTURE

Cheltenham Arts Council: awards_funding_publicity_events listings

June – September 2024

*Young Photographers winners • Wild Arts
CAC awards • Cheltenham German Club
Maha Shivaratri • Tapestry on Tour*

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Submissions must be with us by the following dates for consideration

for the next issue:

Mid December deadline for Feb/May Issue

Mid April deadline for June/Sept Issue

Mid August deadline for Oct/Jan Issue

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**SUBMISSION (ADS AND EVENTS) MUST BE WITH US BY MID DECEMBER FOR CONSIDERATION
FOR THE NEXT ISSUE. PLEASE EMAIL EVENT DETAILS TO PERSPECTIVES.LISTINGS@GMAIL.COM**



PERSPECTIVES TEAM

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Dear Readers

Welcome to the Summer 2024 issue of Perspectives. I'm writing this in chilly April, whilst optimistically looking forward to summer!

In this issue there is news of musical performances past and future, as well as dance. Once again at this time of year we include details of those honoured at the annual Cheltenham Arts Society awards event, held at the Playhouse theatre in early April, at which volunteers nominated by various CAC member organisations were recognised for their contributions to the artistic life of the town. Members of the CAC Awards committee rely entirely on nominations from member organisations when they meet to select the award winners, so please do bear this in mind and consider nominating someone in one of the categories in 2025. Amongst those given an award this year was Shashish Gowri Shankar from Nethra Academy of Performing Arts, who writes in this issue about the latest spectacular performance by the dancers and musicians of NAPA. Look out for the traditional dances of Scotland too, which feature in an article about the annual RSCDS ball held earlier this year.

We also feature articles from several familiar musical organisations, as well as two very welcome contributions from newer members of the Cheltenham music scene, Wild Arts and Tapestry Chamber Choir. It's great to read about Tapestry venturing abroad with such success during their performances in the Rhineland.

My thanks for all the contributions to this issue of Perspectives. I hope you enjoy reading it, and will perhaps look forward to the glorious concert to be given by Cantores Chamber Choir in Cirencester Parish Church, or to beautiful music by Wild Arts in one of their glorious outdoor venues on a delightful summer's evening. Well, we can all dream, even in a very chilly Spring!

Elise Forbes

PERSPECTIVES EDITOR

editor@cheltenhamartscouncil.co.uk



CHELTENHAM ARTS COUNCIL

AN ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF THE ARTS IN CHELTENHAM

On Wednesday 10th April 2024, arts organisations from across the town came together for Cheltenham Arts Council's annual awards ceremony, bringing members together once again to celebrate the achievements of this year's winners.

We were delighted to welcome Edward Gillespie, Lord Lieutenant of Gloucester, in his role as President of Cheltenham Arts Council, as well as the current Mayor of Cheltenham, Councillor Matt Babbage, who opened the proceedings with a short speech praising the breadth of the artistic life of the town, of which he had become even more aware during his mayoralty.

Following the presentation of the various cups and citations, details of which were given to the audience by Chair of CAC,

Sue Silcock, the celebrations were brought to a close by Edward Gillespie. Our President first expressed his pleasure at being back on the stage of the Playhouse, having performed there in earlier times, whilst lamenting the lack of recorded evidence of that appearance! In a more serious vein, he thanked the Mayor for Cheltenham Borough Council's essential financial support for the CAC, and the CAC committee members for their promotion of the arts and for encouraging new member organisations supporting all forms of the arts throughout the borough and beyond. He emphasised the role that our lively arts scene plays in attracting new residents to the town, whilst praising this year's award winners as representative of what is great about our town's cultural life.

THE JOYNER CUP

Eric Miller, Research Co-ordinator,
Leckhampton Local History Society

THE OPERA CUP

Kirsty Winnan, Oriol Singers

THE VISUAL ARTS CUP

Rob Goldsmith, the Gardens Gallery

THE ELIZABETH WEBSTER AWARD

Shashish Gowri Shankar
Nethra Academy of Performing Arts

FRAMED CITATIONS

Lena Modlinska, Cheltenham Children's Choir, and
David Elder, Chair, Cheltenham History Society

THE CHARLES IRVING SPONSORSHIP AWARD

Cotswold Mounts Ltd.
for supporting local visual artists



THE MAYOR'S WELCOME



DAVID ELDER, CHELTENHAM LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY, CITATION



ERIC MILLER, LECKHAMPTON HISTORY SOCIETY, JOYNER CUP



KIRSTY WINNAN, ORIEL SINGERS, OPERA CUP



LENA MODLINSKA, CHELTENHAM CHILDREN'S CHOIR, CITATION



ROBERT GOLDSMITH, GARDENS GALLERY, VISUAL ARTS CUP



SHRASHISH GOWRI SHANKAR, NETHRA ACADEMY OF PERFORMING ARTS, ELIZABETH WEBSTER AWARD

CANTORES CHAMBER CHOIR

SHOWCASING EARLY MUSIC IN THE COTSWOLDS

There has been no shortage of early music in Cantores Chamber Choir's 2023/24 season. Following the success of our concert, *An Elizabethan Christmas*, with the internationally renowned viol consort Fretwork in Cheltenham, we gave two performances in March of our innovative Thomas Tallis Reimagined programme in Cirencester and Minchinhampton. These showcased the magnificence of Tallis' music, alongside works from more recent times inspired directly by Tallis' music or the texts that he set, including a newly commissioned work by Herefordshire-based composer Esther Kay.

On Saturday 29 June at 7.30 pm, Cantores returns to Cirencester Parish Church for a programme of exuberant Baroque masterpieces by Bach and Handel. The programme will feature one of J.S. Bach's most popular choral works, the Magnificat in D, richly scored for five-part choir, soloists and orchestra, including flutes, oboes, trumpets, and timpani. Cantores is delighted to be joined for this concert by period-instrument ensemble The Musical and Amicable Society, who will also play Bach's virtuosic Brandenburg Concerto No. 4 in G.



CANTORES CHOIR

The programme will be completed with a setting of the Te Deum and Jubilate composed by G.F. Handel for a service of thanksgiving at St. Paul's Cathedral in London celebrating the peace brought about by the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713, marking the end of the War of the Spanish Succession. Given the celebratory nature of the work, it is no surprise that Handel employs colourful and festive choral, solo and orchestral scoring similar to that used by Bach in his Magnificat. One of Handel's first major sacred works in English, following the musical models of Henry Purcell, it is full of his characteristic, masterful writing for chorus.

Simon Harper

Music Director, Cantores Chamber Choir

FOR MORE INFORMATION, TICKETS AND DETAILS OF THE CHOIR'S FORTHCOMING CONCERTS,
PLEASE SEE OUR WEBSITE WWW.CANTORES.NET.

CHELTENHAM CHAMBER ORCHESTRA CONCERT

A WELCOME RETURN FOR A YOUNG CONDUCTOR

Cheltenham Chamber Orchestra (CCO) gave their first concert in 2024 on 13 January in St Andrew's Church.

The Orchestra welcomed the return of Katherine Stonham who conducted a varied programme with two young talented soloists, Kathy Macaulay, Soprano, and Anwen Mai Thomas, Harp.

The programme opened with Rameau's attractive Entrée de Polymnie from Les Boréades, which was followed by the song cycle Les Nuits d'Été by Berlioz. Welsh Soprano Kathy Macaulay gave a confident and beautiful performance, showing great stage presence.

After the interval Anwen Mai Thomas delighted the audience with her playing of Debussy's Danse Sacrée et Danse Profane for harp and strings, and the concert ended with Haydn's Symphony No 83 in G major 'La Poule' ('The Hen').

The Orchestra's playing was of the usual high standard, and the concert was well received by a large and appreciative audience. The CCO is grateful to Cheltenham Arts Council for their generous support for this concert.

Angela Walker



CCO CONDUCTOR
KATHERINE STONHAM



HARPIST ANWEN MAI THOMAS



KATHY MACAULAY
SOPRANO

CHELTENHAM CAMERA CLUB

A CELEBRATION OF PHOTOGRAPHY FROM AROUND THE WORLD

One of Cheltenham Camera Club's annual highlights is organising the Cheltenham International Salon of Photography, now in its 12th Year.

The competition is run under the patronage of the Royal Photographic Society (RPS), the Photo Society of America (PSA), the International Federation of Photographic Art (FIAP) and the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain (PAGB). This year, 414 photographers entered the five categories - Colour, Monochrome, Nature, Creative and Travel. A total of over 5,000 images were received from countries across the world, from Brazil to Senegal, Taiwan to New Zealand. In total, photographers from forty countries took part, with 25% of the images submitted receiving "Acceptances", which are highly sought-after, allowing photographers to gather points towards distinctions, whilst also aiming for the major awards.

The images were projected and judged over three days in front of a team of internationally renowned judges, including myself. Judging ran very smoothly using the new web-based software developed by one of our members, Aleks Gijka, with the three judges scoring each image out of

five on their phone or tablet. As they were projected, the judges were looking at the composition, subject matter and the impact or feeling that the image created. The top scoring images were reviewed once again to finalise the 140 awards. The quality of images shown made this a very difficult task, but the judges were all in agreement on the award winners.

After the judging was completed a ninety-minute audio-visual presentation was made, which will be shown for the first time at a club meeting in September, before touring around photography clubs and other arts organisations in the region. If you are interested in showing this to your group, please let us know.

The Salon is a great opportunity for our town to enhance its profile as a centre for the arts. It puts Cheltenham Camera Club at the forefront of international photographic competition throughout the country and provides our own members with the opportunity to see the very best work as an inspiration on their photographic journey.

Martin Fry



THE OCULUS - MARK STONE CCC SILVER TRAVEL



THE SHOPKEEPER - MONO SECTION CCC MEDAL JOHN CLARE



DALMATIAN PELICAN FEEDING - KARIN WILSON CCC RIBBON NATURE



MISTY BLUEBELL WOOD - GOLD - ROBIN COUCHMAN - ENGLAND, COLOUR SECTION



OPENING NIGHT - ADRIAN DONOGHUE AUSTRALIA - GOLD CREATIVE



PEPTY GOING FOR GOLD - GOLD MEDAL - MONICA DOSHI ENGLAND



SEA HORSES - DAVID ADAMSON CCC MEMBERS MEDAL



SHEIKH ZAYED GRAND MOSQUE - CCC MEMBERS MEDAL - MARGARET MACEVOY

WINNING IMAGES, AS WELL AS GALLERIES OF ALL THOSE ACCEPTED, CAN BE VIEWED THROUGH THE CHELTENHAM CAMERA CLUB WEBSITE: CHELTENHAMCAMERACLUB.CO.UK UNDER THE SALON TAB.

CHELTENHAM GERMAN CLUB

THREE POLITICAL AND CULTURAL TALKS IN GERMAN LAUNCH THE SEASON

The German Club's first talk this season in October 2023 was about the relationship between Germany and Russia.

Addressing his topic, 'Deutsch-russische Beziehungen: Von der Kooperation zur Katastrophe' (German-Russian Relations: From Co-operation to Catastrophe), Dr Helmut Hubel, retired Professor of International Politics at the University of Jena, first gave us some brief historical background, before concentrating on German-Russian/Soviet relations since 1975. This period included the policy of détente, gas-pipeline deals and German reunification. He completed his talk by discussing the shock experienced by the Germans at the outbreak of Putin's war of aggression against Ukraine. The talk was well received by the members and a lively discussion followed.

The second talk in November was about the Oldenburg Globe Theatre in Germany. Dr John Goodyear, lecturer at the University of Birmingham, began his talk: 'Das Oldenburger Globe: Zwischen Ablenkung und Unterhaltung für Britische Soldaten' (The Oldenburg Globe: Providing Distraction and Entertainment for British Soldiers) by describing the history of the Globe Theatres for British soldiers in post-war Germany between 1947 and 1957. These Army Kinema Corporation theatres/cinemas were intended to serve not only as entertainment but also, as a means of introducing the soldiers to new ideas. From their Kingsley Barracks in Minden, The A.K.C. managed twenty-five cinemas, nearly all called The Globe.

Most of these cinemas are now dilapidated, apart from the Oldenburg Globe in Niedersachsen, which is being preserved

by a 'Kulturgenossenschaft', a group made up of many local volunteers who work to repair and restore the cinema to its former glory. By showing our members historical material and pictures of the Globe, which still looks the same inside as it did in the 1950s, Dr Goodyear enthusiastically explained his interest in the Oldenburg Globe, a research project which he has been pursuing since 2018. This cultural talk was well received by our members.

As our third speaker, we welcomed Dr Katharina Karcher from the University of Birmingham with her topic: 'Rudi Dutschke: ein behinderter Revolutionär im britischen Exil' (Rudi Dutschke: a disabled revolutionary exiled in Britain). Whilst her research topic in general is about social movements and protest cultures in the 20th and 21st centuries, Dr Karcher's current research deals with the period of exile in England of Germany's student leader Rudi Dutschke, who survived an assassination attempt in 1968 in Germany. He sought medical treatment in England and stayed until 1971 but was then obliged to leave the country as he was considered a threat to British national security. He died in 1979. Dr Karcher also spoke about Dutschke's political thinking and raised the wider question of the alleged threat posed by immigrants to national security. The talk was well received by our members.

Richard Wooley

PLEASE SEE OUR WEBSITE WWW.CHELTGESELL FOR FUTURE EVENTS.

GLoucestershire Young Photographer of the Year

CELEBRATING TWENTY YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

On 25th April pupils from schools throughout the county met once again at the Playhouse to enjoy two brilliant audio-visual shows devised by Martin Fry of Cheltenham Camera Club, and to celebrate in style all 838 entries.

The competition is organised each year by Cheltenham Camera Club, which gratefully acknowledges the support of Cheltenham Arts Council, sponsor of the primary school awards, and of secondary school sponsor, Cheltenham Round Table. Invitations to take part reach schools in mid-January and the closing date for entries is just before the Easter break. All schools have at least one photograph accepted and receive a link to the awards show for use later, perhaps to encourage the next year's entrants! Entries this year were judged by CCC members James de Courcy, Dave Hyatt and Martin Fry, who were looking for excellence in choice of subject, story-telling and composition.

Following the AV presentation featuring all the selected photographs entered by primary schools, CCC member, Linda Kirkhope, launched the presentation of the primary school awards by the Mayor of

Cheltenham, Councillor Matt Babbage, who began by congratulating the winners and announcing that he was on the lookout for some tips to improve his own photography! Those who were commended and highly commended were all acknowledged first, followed by the first, second and third prize winners. The first prize went to Charlie Norrie, for 'A Leap of Faith', and the best school was St Mark's Junior School with Rodmarton Primary in second place.

The AV presentation showing all the entries in the secondary school section of the competition was a fascinating illustration of the developing skills of these older students. The prizes were presented by Ross Beamish from Cheltenham Round Table. Once again, many young photographers were rewarded with commendations, individual choices by the three judges and the traditional first, second and third overall places. The first prize went to Alasdair Hills for 'Contemplation', and the winner amongst the secondary schools was Cheltenham Ladies College, with Pate's Grammar School in second place.

Enjoy this pick of the photographs!

Elise Forbes





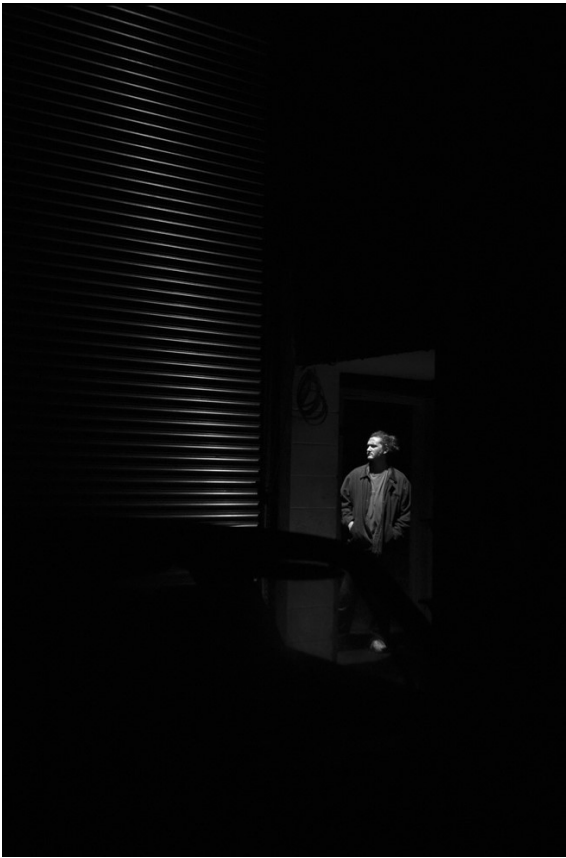
PRIMARY 1ST PRIZE CHARLIE NORRIE - A LEAP OF FAITH



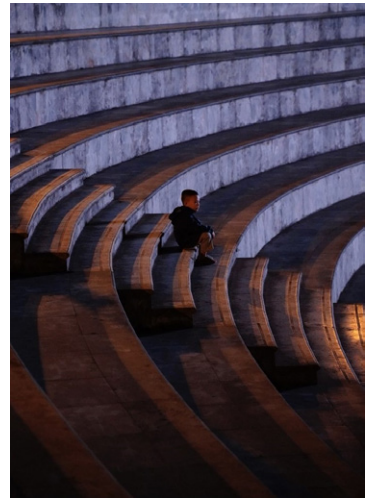
PRIMARY 3RD PRIZE NANCY TYLER - THE PUPPIES



PRIMARY 2ND PRIZE JAXON BUTLER - REFLECTIVE BUBBLES



SECONDARY 1ST PRIZE ALASDAIR HILLS - CONTEMPLATION



SECONDARY 2ND PRIZE CHARLOTTE
LIM - URBANITY



SECONDARY 3RD PRIZE OLLY ARDOUS
- LOST IN THOUGHT

LISTINGS: EVENTS DIRECTORY JUNE - SEPTEMBER 2024

VISUAL ARTS

**AT THE GARDENS GALLERY,
MONTPELLIER GARDENS:****Core Hours 10am-5pm****Friday Faces**

Wed 29 May - Tue 4 Jun,
portraits by members of Sheila
Bryant's Friday Group

**The Art Lab: Experiments in
Creativity**

Wed 5 - Tue 11 Jun, Lindsey
Crane: Graphic landscape
painter, Paula Kear: Pastel
artist, Anna Lansley:
Printmaker, Adam Stinson:
Ceramicist, Claire Walker -
Watercolour artist

Watch this Space

Wed 12 - Tue 18 Jun

Art Force Collective

Wed 19 - Tue 25 Jun, featuring
Jo Biggadike, Colin Clark,
Karen Fitzpatrick, Steve
Roberts

Jane Powell

Wed 16 Jun - Tue 2 Jul,

Junction 12, Trudi Hayden

Wed - Tue 9 Jul,

Wendy Rochefort

Wed 10 - Tue 16 Jul

**Fibre Art Exhibition:
Fellowship of Fibre**

Wed 17 - Tue 23 Jul,
Philippa Devine: Botanical
Printing, Anne Hopkins:
A Feeling For Felt, Hilary
Davies: Quilted Fabric
Collage, Helen DenDulk:
Architectural Crochet
& Yarn Wrapping. See:
fellowshipoffibre.co.uk

Claire Mann

Wed 24 - Tue 30 Jul,

Tony Davie

Wed 31 Jul - Tue 6 Aug,

**Junction 12, Wendy
Golding**

Wed 7 - Tue 13 Aug,



JO MILLAR, CHELTENHAMOPENSTUDIOS.ORG.UK MEMBER

Angela Scrivin

Wed 14 - Tue 20 Aug,

Luba Arnold

Wed 28 Aug - Tue 3 Sep,

Cheltenham Art Club

Wed 4 - Tue 10 Sep,

Sarah Jemmett

Wed 11 - Tue 17 Sep,

Jill Hammond: Art Mix

Wed 18 - Tue 24 Sep,

MUSIC

**Charlton Kings Choral
Society Rehearsals,**

Wednesdays, 7.30pm,
St Philip and St James,
Leckhampton, further info:
ckcsonline.org.uk

**Cheltenham Choral
Society Rehearsals,**

Wednesdays, 7.30-9.30pm,
St Andrew's Church,
Montpellier, welcoming new
members, see cheltchoral.
org for details



JANE SASANOW, ARTISTS' BOOKS, CHELTENHAMOPENSTUDIOS.ORG.UK MEMBER

EVENTS FOR JUNE - SEPTEMBER 2024



ROGER MATTHEWS, CHELTENHAMOPENSTUDIOS.ORG.UK MEMBER

Cleeve Harmony A Cappella Chorus Rehearsals,

Wednesdays, 7.30 - 10pm, Bishop's Cleeve Tithe Barn, new members welcome! See cleeve-harmony.org.uk or enquiries to md@cleeve-harmony.org.uk

Musica Vera Rehearsals,

Wednesdays, 7.30 - 9.30pm, St Mary's Prestbury, we have vacancies in all voice parts. Please contact the secretary, Lesley Nicholls, 01242 222853 or email nicholls186@yahoo.com. See musicavera.org

Young Musician Concert: Isaac Williams (violin) and Winnie Chan (pf),

Tue 4 Jun, 1pm, free entry, donations welcome, Pittville Pump Room, arranged by the Cheltenham Music Festival Society, facebook.com/CMFSoc

Young Musician Concert: Eva Kulikova (soprano) and Krystyna Zaitseva,

Tue 11 Jun, 1pm, free entry, donations welcome, Pittville Pump Room, arranged by the Cheltenham Music Festival Society, facebook.com/CMFSoc

Young Musician Concert: Cheltenham College,

Tue 18 Jun, 1pm, free entry, donations welcome, Pittville Pump Room, arranged by the Cheltenham Music Festival Society, facebook.com/CMFSoc

Cheltenham Symphony Orchestra,

Sat 22 Jun, 7.30pm, Pershore Abbey, supporting Farmers Overseas Action Group (FOAG). Bizet: Jeux d'enfants, Mendelssohn: Violin Concerto, soloist: Hannah Brookes-Hughes, Saint-Saëns: Symph No.3 The Organ Symphony, organist: Jonathan Hope. Tickets: FOAG Box Office, 01886 853 295, email info@foag.org and on the door

EVENTS FOR JUNE - SEPTEMBER 2024

Cheltenham Bach Choir: Showcase of American Choral,

Sun 23 Jun, 6.30pm, £20/£5, Town Hall, with Claire Alsop, piano, Jessica Cale, soprano. Aaron Copland, Morten Lauridsen, Leonard Bernstein, Eric Whitacre. tickets@cheltbachchoir.com

Young Musician Concert: Tim Rumsey (piano),

Tue 25 Jun, 1pm, free entry, donations welcome, Pittville Pump Room, arranged by the Cheltenham Music Festival Society, facebook.com/CMFSoc

Cleeve Chorale Summer Concert: England's Glory,

Sat 29 Jun, 3pm, Woodmancote Village Hall, selections from Oliver! by Lionel Bart, and music by English composers: Elgar, Vaughan Williams, and Handel, see clevechorale.co.uk

Musica Vera Summer Concert,

Sat 29 Jun, 3pm, retiring collection, St Mary's Prestbury, a musical voyage to Ireland exploring the music of Irish composers such as Stanford, E.J. Moeran and Charles Wood, as well as sampling the rich folk-song tradition. Followed by tea and cake! musicavera.org

Cantores Chamber Choir: Bach and Handel,

Sat 29 Jun, 7.30pm, £20/£5, Cirencester Parish Church, with the Musical & Amicable Society, Bach: Magnificat, Brandenburg Concerto No.4 in G, Handel: Utrecht Te Deum and Jubilate, tickets: cantores.net or Cirencester Local Info Centre

Cheltenham Philharmonic Orchestra Family Concert: Animal Magic,

Sun 30 Jun, 3pm, £20/18/14, Students £10, U-18 £3, Town Hall, Margaret Holter: Sounds of the Forest, Howard Blake: All God's Creatures for children's choir and orchestra, John Williams: Suite from Jaws, Camille Saint-Saëns: Selection from Carnival of the Animals. Tickets: 01242 528764, customer.contact@cheltenhamtrust.org.uk, cheltenhamtownhall.org.uk, in person: Leisure at Cheltenham. Details: cheltenhamphilharmonic.co.uk

Cheltenham Choral Society Lunchtime Concert,

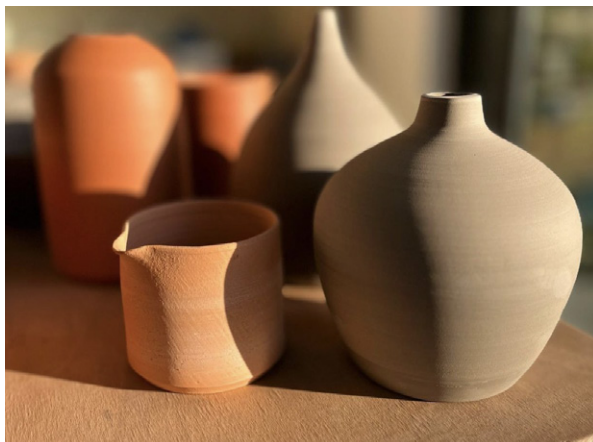
Sat 6 Jul, 1.15pm, Great Malvern Priory, choral pieces from Haydn, Mozart, Stainer, Sullivan, Schubert, Fauré

Cheltenham Music Festival,

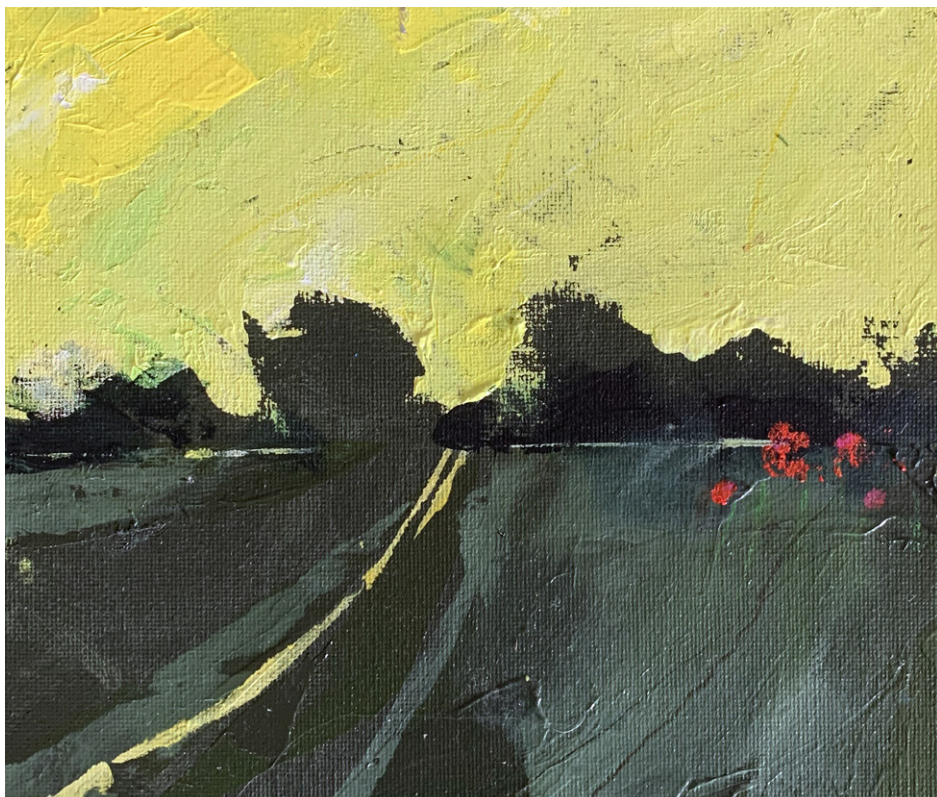
Sat 6 - Sat 13 Jul, cheltenhamfestivals.com

Holst: The Hymn of Jesus,

Fri 12 Jul, 7.30pm, from £15, Gloucester Cathedral, Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, South Cotswold Big Sing Group and Gloucester Cathedral Choristers, cheltenhamfestivals.com



KATRINA MOORE, CHELTENHAMOPENSTUDIOS.ORG.UK MEMBER



PAUL WEST, CHELTENHAMOPENSTUDIOS.ORG.UK MEMBER

Cheltenham Chamber

Orchestra, Sat 28 Sep, 7.30pm, St Andrew's Church, Montpellier, cond. Timothy Carey, violin Edgar Bailey, Beethoven: Coriolan Overture, Mozart: Violin Concerto No 4 in D major, Beethoven: Symph No.1 in C Major

Cleeve Harmony annual Showtime performance, Sat 12 Oct, details will be available at cleeve-harmony.org.uk

STAGE & DANCE

Promenade Productions: High School Musical, Wed 17- Sat 21 Jul, 7pm + 2pm Sat and Sun, Playhouse, Promenade Productions continue to celebrate their 40th Anniversary Year with their latest production. Tickets: cheltplayhouse.org.uk

Cheltenham Royal Scottish Country Dance Society: Come and Try Open Evening, Mon 9 Sep, 7.30-9.30pm, free, St Luke's Hall, rscdscheltenham.org

LECTURES & MEETINGS

Friends of The Wilson: 400 years of Stroudwater Textiles, Mon 3 Jun, 2pm, members £11, non-members £13, St Matthew's Church, with Ann Taylor. Booking: friendsofthewilson.org.uk/events/

The Arts Society Cheltenham: The Ancient Olympics, Tue 11 Jun, 7.15pm, members free, visitors £8, students £4, The Pavilion, Hatherley Lane, with Stephen Kershaw. See theartssocietycheltenham.org.uk or email info.cheltenham@theartssociety.org

EVENTS FOR JUNE - SEPTEMBER 2024



RUST BUCKET WORKSHOP, CHELTENHAMOPENSTUDIOS.ORG.UK MEMBER

Friends of The Wilson: Walk, Mon 24 Jun, 10.30am, repeated 2.30pm, members £11, non-members £13, Booze, Balloons and Burials, with Neela Mann. Booking: friendsofthewilson.org.uk/events/

Friends of The Wilson: William Morris and William de Morgan, Mon 15 Jul, 7pm, members £11, non-members £13, St Luke's Hall, with Julian Orbach. Booking: friendsofthewilson.org.uk/events/

Heritage Open Days, Fri 6 - Sun 15 Sept, open buildings, guided walks, talks, exhibitions. Details will be available at cheltcivicsoc.org

Cheltenham Royal Scottish Country Dance Society: Come and Try Open Evening, Mon 9 Sep, 7.30 - 9.30pm, free, St Luke's Hall, rsdsccheltenham.org

The Arts Society Cheltenham: The Big Three in Florence – Michelangelo, Leonardo and Raphael, Tue 10 Sep, 7.15pm, members free, visitors £8, students £4, The Pavilion, Hatherley Lane, with Antonia Gatward-Cevzli. See theartsocietycheltenham.org.uk or email info.cheltenham@theartsociety.org

Cheltenham Local History Society, Wed 18 Sep, 7.30pm, St Luke's Hall, Cheltenham Female Orphanage Asylum, with Jo Teague. cheltlocalhistory.org.uk



ANTONELLA SCARPA-ISLES, CHELTENHAMOPENSTUDIOS.ORG.UK MEMBER



SUSAN WILKINSON, CHELTENHAMOPENSTUDIOS.ORG.UK MEMBER



JENNY WESTBROOK,
CHELTENHAMOPENSTUDIOS.ORG.UK MEMBER

HOLST150!

CELEBRATIONS IN THE COMPOSER'S BIRTHPLACE AND BEYOND

Throughout this year Holst150 celebrations will be held in Cheltenham and across Gloucestershire to mark the birth of the composer Gustav Holst, who was born in this town on 21st September 1874.

Celebrations in which members of the community will come together to showcase their own creativity, inspired by Holst's own life and work.

Funded by Arts Council England, the Summerfield Trust, the Peter Stormonth Darling Trust, the Trafford Fund and the Patricia Routledge Foundation, the celebrations will feature performances including concerts, plays and dance, as well as exhibitions and a selection of community-curated events and projects. Partners include the Holst Victorian House, the Everyman and Playhouse theatres, The Star College, Cheltenham Music Festival, the University of Gloucestershire, Nethra Academy of Performing Arts and Cheltenham Borough Council.

The culmination of the festivities will be a community celebration of Holst's life on 21st September in Imperial Gardens, featuring performances by local musicians and community groups.

At the Holst Victorian House, there will be a special exhibition, In a Parisian Salon: Louise Dyer, Holst Patron, exploring the friendship between Holst and Louise Dyer, who was a great patron of the arts. It will showcase the Louise Dyer archive, which the Museum was fortunate enough to secure in 2023, thanks to generous grants from the V&A/ACE Purchase Grant Fund, the Friends of the National Libraries, and Friends and supporters of the Holst

Victorian House. It will be the first time the items have been on display and will include two autograph manuscripts given to Louise Dyer by Holst. These are the ballet music for *The Perfect Fool*, Holst's first major work following *The Planets*, a key work to this day, and *Dream-City*, a setting of poems by Humbert Wolfe.



THE EXTERIOR

Gustav Holst and Louise Dyer

In 1924, Gustav Holst was suffering from a serious nervous breakdown. Exhausted from a punishing schedule of conducting his works, the demands of teaching, and the strain of being in the public eye following the success of *The Planets*, he retreated to his home in Thaxted, Essex. He wrote to his friend, William Whittaker, 'I have cut down my teaching by half and now lead a wonderfully lazy life – probably I spend as much time in bed or on the sofa in a week as you do in a month.'

One of the benefits of withdrawing from his hectic life was the opportunity it offered to create in peace, spending the time drafting *At the Boar's Head* and *A Choral Symphony*. He did, however, visit London occasionally to meet with his friends.

It was thanks to an introduction by Holst's friend Whittaker in 1924 that the



LOUISE DYER IN PARIS



GUSTAV HOLST

composer first met Australian-born Louise Hanson-Dyer (1884-1962). A patron of the arts, and particularly of music, she went on to establish the music publisher, Editions de l'Oiseau-Lyre - Lyrebird Press. Interestingly, the initial meeting was not a great success, with Holst writing later to Whittaker that he had been feeling 'seedy'. Nevertheless, their friendship developed and her enthusiasm and support for his work was to kick-start the next stage of Holst's career at a time when he needed it most.

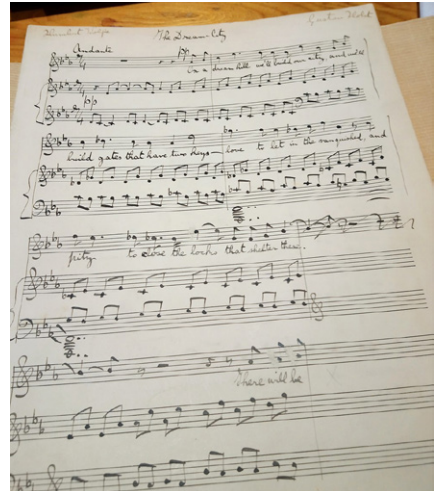
The Dream-City premiered at the housewarming for Louise Dyer's new flat in Paris in 1929, and those present included the writer, James Joyce. In a five-page autograph letter which is part of the new collection, Holst explained to Dyer about the composition of the work: "the writing of it corresponded with your visit to London and ended on your last day here. It was the first music I had written for 13 months and the first song for 13 years, and the first song with piano accompaniment for 20 years." Clearly Dyer's friendship was of great personal and

professional significance to Holst. They shared mutual enthusiasms, and Dyer put great effort into promoting Holst's work.

A special booklet written by the Holst scholar, Philippa Tudor, will accompany the exhibition at the HVH, where there will also be a programme of events, including talks and a children's trail.

In a Parisian Salon: Louise Dyer, Holst Patron, will be at the Holst Victorian House from 8 June - 18 December 2024.

Laura Kinnear and Steve Leary



MANUSCRIPT



LOUISE DYER



NETHRA ACADEMY OF PERFORMING ARTS

A JOYFUL CELEBRATION OF UNITY AND DIVERSITY

On the evening of Friday 8th March 2024, NAPA organised a Maha Shivaratri celebration at the All-Nations Community Centre in Gloucester.

As the day coincided with International Women's Day, the evening of celebration started with the lighting of diyas (candles) by representatives from different community groups, symbolising unity and diversity coming together in celebration. The representatives were as follows:

- Mrs Valerie Simms, Black Community
- Mrs Camille Cowe, English Community
- Mrs Narinder Seehra, Punjabi Community
- Mrs Rekha S, Sri Lankan Tamil Community
- Dr Gayathiri Gowri Shankar, Indian Tamil Community.

As dance and music both honour and connect with the energy and significance of Maha Shivaratri, over 65 performers laid (Samarpanam) their dance and music at Lord Shiva's feet to ask his blessing on further performances and learning opportunities. There was a full house with around 250 people being treated to a fascinating performance of bharatanatyam (classical dance) with musical accompaniment (mridangam, violin and veena), which originates from southern India. The intricate footwork, graceful movements of the dancers and the melodious instrumental music mesmerised the large audience.

The conclusion with bhajans and aarti provided a fitting spiritual closure to the celebration. Serving prasadam to all the guests honoured the Hindu tradition of sharing blessings and goodwill through food.



Gowri Shankar
NAPA – Head of Administration

FORTY YEARS OF MUSIC AND ENTERTAINMENT

PROMENADE PRODUCTIONS CELEBRATE IN STYLE!

And we did indeed do it in style, with a gala civic night during the run of this year's pantomime, *Sleeping Beauty*, and appropriately with a Barn Dance attended by members old and new, reflecting the title of our very first production.

Promenade Productions burst on to the Cheltenham AmDram scene in July 1984 with the Rodgers & Hammerstein classic *Oklahoma!* at the Shaftesbury Hall Theatre.

Now forty years on, and after several changes of venue, the society flourishes with some of the original members still involved! John Pannett has been Chairman throughout the society's existence, a position he has combined with a variety of different roles, ranging from producing and directing to his inimitable creation of the Pantomime Dame.

Except during the 'Covid years', Promenade Productions has brought fun and laughter to the people of Gloucestershire each winter with a traditional family pantomime and a fully staged musical in the summer.

The first panto, 'Sing a Song of Sixpence', was in 1986, with tickets priced in those far off days at £2.00 or £3.00!

The society's choice of summer musicals reflects the changing tastes of theatre audiences. In 2023 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat', staged at The Cheltenham Playhouse, played to sell-out audiences. The production attracted several new young members, whom we hope to see in this year's summer production of *High School*

Musical, once again to be performed at The Playhouse from 17th to 21st July 2024. Tickets are already on sale and available from the Playhouse box office or online.

Over forty years we, like all AmDram societies, have seen production costs rocket. Promenade Productions would like to take this opportunity to express our grateful thanks to the Cheltenham Arts Council for the grant from The Trafford Fund which has enabled us to enhance the ladies' costume wardrobe with eighteen white bodices made by members of the society. Worn for the first time by the ladies of the chorus in this year's production of *Sleeping Beauty*, which was yet another sellout production, they will certainly be of great benefit in



THE NEW BODICES WORN FOR THE FIRST TIME BY MEMBERS OF THE CHORUS IN *SLEEPING BEAUTY*

productions for many years to come.

CHELTENHAM'S RSCDS TAKES TO THE FLOOR IN STYLE

A COLLABORATION CAPTURES AN EVENING OF DANCING

The beginning of January is a special time for the Cheltenham Royal Scottish Country Dance Society (RSCDS) as we come together and welcome dancers from near and far for our Annual Ball in the Town Hall.

This is an occasion for kilts and glamorous dresses. Once the band has played a few tunes to warm up, we take to the floor for the first dance and the magic of Scottish dancing begins.

But can you capture the spirit of our Ball in still photographs? Without any inhouse expertise we contacted Cheltenham Camera Club member Steve Reis to ask if anyone in their Club would come and take some photographs. We were delighted when Steve took up the challenge himself.

This was indeed a challenge with low light levels in the Town Hall and lots of movement. As we danced, Steve set to work and the results show how he

captured the splendour of the Town Hall, as well as the movement and sheer joy of the occasion. A selection of the photographs can be viewed on the Gallery page of the RSCDS Cheltenham website <https://rscdscheltenham.org/gallery/>. We are indebted to Steve for giving up a Saturday evening to record the special atmosphere of Scottish Country Dancing in the Town Hall.

Next year's Ball will be held in the Princess Hall at Cheltenham Ladies' College, and we are looking forward to dancing in our new venue.

For more information on our Scottish country dance club with information on classes and events please visit our website. <https://rscdscheltenham.org/>

Lesley Taylor



RSCDS CHELTENHAM ANNUAL BALL, TOWN HALL, JANUARY 2024 - STEVE REIS

TAPESTRY CHAMBER CHOIR IN GERMANY

AUDIENCES WELCOME MUSICIANS TO VENUES BY THE RHINE

In the early hours of Monday 1st April, sleepy singers from Tapestry Chamber Choir boarded a coach with our Musical Director, Sandra Burne, and headed off for the Rhineland, with a busy schedule of four performances in three days ahead of us.

Rayburn Tours was our excellent tour organiser, providing the coach, accommodation, and most of the concert bookings and publicity.

We based ourselves in Koblenz, which is the beautiful city at the meeting point of the mighty Rhine and Mosel rivers. Although we brought some Gloucestershire weather with us, we also brought some Gloucestershire music, featuring Holst and Vaughan Williams. In addition, our setlist for the tour marked the 100th Anniversary of Stanford's death with performances of three of his works and included pieces by female composers Forbes L'Estrange and Rusby. Tapestry's varied sacred and secular repertoire, which covers over 400 years, allowed us to sing at some very different venues! Some of our set is unaccompanied whilst other pieces are supported by our great accompanist, Keith Mead.

Our first concert was at the Basilika St Kastor in Koblenz, which is the oldest preserved church in Koblenz, with most of the present building dating from the mid-12th century. We were welcomed by the Mayor of Koblenz, Ulrike Mohrs, and our programme was very well received, culminating in the first of two standing ovations during the tour. Singing in such a lovely environment was wonderful and the audience seemed happy, too. One group even came up to us demanding to pay for the free concert! We managed to



SANDRA BURNE, MUSICAL DIRECTOR OF TAPESTRY CHAMBER CHOIR

divert their enthusiasm by suggesting a contribution to a local charity instead.

The following day we again sang in a church setting, this time in the Basilika St Severus in Boppard, a pretty small town on the Rhine south of Koblenz. This late-Romanesque church from the 12th/13th centuries was fabulous both visually, with fantastic fan-vaulting in the nave and beautiful, colourful decorations,



TAPESTRY AT BASILIKA ST KASTOR, KOBLENZ

and as a performance space with a lovely clear acoustic. A large and enthusiastic audience gave us the second standing ovation of the tour and must have

enjoyed hearing the music as much as we enjoyed performing it.

The last full day in Germany involved two very contrasting concerts. In the morning, we travelled down the Rhine to Cologne Cathedral to sing at Midday Prayers. This immense and awe-inspiring church is a place of superlatives. It is the tallest twin-spired church in the world, and third tallest church of any kind, as well as being the church with the world's largest façade. It was a great privilege to be able to sing in such a fantastic place. We sang four pieces during the service, including two of Stanford's motets. On returning to Koblenz, we performed a concert in the town's small synagogue where we sang some of our folk songs, and a subset of the choir unleashed their klezmer repertoire. We were then treated to a meal by the local Jewish community.

During the planning stage of our tour, one of our altos asked if her daughter, Joanne Appleton, a Year 9 pupil at Pate's Grammar School, could accompany her on the tour. Once we discovered that she played the trumpet, we took the opportunity for two other members of the choir to bring their trumpets so that the choir could perform Vaughan Williams' setting of the Old Hundredth. Joanne played the solo descant in Verse 3 in Boppard brilliantly and is certainly a young musician to watch. A video of this performance can be seen on our website at <https://www.tapestrychamberchoir.co.uk/> It was Tapestry's pleasure to enable a talented local young player to perform on the tour and to confirm our commitment to encourage local young musicians.

This gives us the opportunity to remind readers of Tapestry's scholarship programme, where, in addition to our standard offer of free membership to those under 25, young singers who are willing to commit to regular rehearsals and



TAPESTRY AT BASILIKA ST SEVERUS, BOPPARD

performances can receive various forms of subsidy. Examples include subsidised travel on our foreign tours like this one, free conducting lessons, or a bursary of up to £100 per term. It is also a great opportunity for young singers to network with other members of the choir, many of whom have extensive contacts in the world of professional music. Access is via a simple, non-scary audition – contact our Musical Director, Sandra, at sandra.burne@protempo.co.uk for details.

All in all, we had a wonderful few days in Germany, singing in a mix of fantastic places and enjoying a warm reception from the local audiences, whilst promoting music and musicians from Cheltenham and surrounding parts of Gloucestershire and Worcestershire. We also managed some sightseeing, including a walking tour of the beautiful Old City of Koblenz, and the incredibly spectacular Burg Eltz.

Simon Burne



TAPESTRY TRUMPET SECTION



TAPESTRY AT COLOGNE CATHEDRAL

MUSIC FOR A SUMMER'S EVENING

ACCLAIMED NEW OPERA COMPANY RETURNS TO THE COUNTY

Wild Arts was founded in 2022 by the team behind the long-running Roman River Festival.

The company makes music fresh, enjoyable and available to everyone, while spearheading positive environmental change. Their goal is to create a truly green opera house and performance space, set in a bio-diverse landscape and constructed entirely of sustainable materials. The company is led by a creative team of two experienced musicians. The Musical Director is conductor and cellist Orlando Jopling, who has performed and recorded with many renowned orchestras. The Director is James Hurley, who began his career in 2009 with English National Opera and has since worked with many celebrated orchestras both in this country and abroad.

Following successful performances at Painswick Rococo Garden and Hilles House in 2023, this leading young opera company is returning to Gloucestershire in July, with Opera Evenings at Painswick Rococo Garden, Hilles House, and Sudeley Castle, and a new production of *The Magic Flute* at Owlpen Manor.

Wild Arts' Opera Evenings are 75 minutes of favourites from operas and golden-era musicals (from Handel, Mozart, and Rossini, to Gershwin, Rodgers and Tom Lehrer). These pieces are woven together into a narrative and performed by four world-class singers and a string quintet at beautiful venues across the country. Performers include Galina Averina (5 stars "terrific ... with sparkling vivacity," *The Guardian*), Martha Jones, Xavier Hetherington and Glyndebourne rising star Timothy Nelson, alongside internationally renowned chamber musicians.

The Magic Flute offers a witty, fast-moving, and fantastical new version of Mozart's classic tale, led by acclaimed director James Hurley (Glyndebourne, English National Opera, Opera North), sung in English by a cast of 12 top young singer-actors, and with a chamber orchestra conducted by musical director Orlando Jopling (Royal Opera House, English National Ballet).

The cast will be led by Glyndebourne, Welsh National Opera, and English Touring Opera stars Jenny Stafford, Richard Dowling, Gareth Brynmor John, Luci Briginshaw and Edward Hawkins.

Wild Arts' 2024 tour comes on the back of a string of five-star reviews in 2022 and 2023, with their debut production of *Così fan tutte* in 2022 being picked up by *The Guardian* as one of the must-see shows of that summer. Their productions are entertaining and intimate, whilst capturing all the magic and intensity of the incredible music.

Encapsulating the company's thoughts on their forthcoming season in beautiful Cotswold venues, and tempting potential audience members to join them, Orlando Jopling has this to say, "I'm seriously excited to return to Gloucestershire with our third summer season. We've a dream programme, an outstanding cast, and some of the finest players in the country, and having the opportunity to return to these beautiful venues, and even add some new ones, is a delight. Come, enjoy the music, walk the gardens, and clink some glasses in the English sunshine."

Lesley Taylor



WILD ARTS PRESENTS ITS 3RD SUMMER SEASON...

An Evening of Opera

★★★★★
FAIRY POWERED
PRODUCTIONS

★★★★★
THE CAMBRIDGE
CRITIQUE

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HOUSE, AND SUDELEY CASTLE

Picnic in the beautiful gardens at any of our venues, and watch intimate, world-class performances of some of the greatest stories ever told...

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MOZART THE MAGIC FLUTE

★★★★★ THE GUARDIAN

★★★★★ OPERA NOW

4 JULY

AT OWLPEN MANOR

ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

WILD ARTS

CHELTENHAM CHORAL SOCIETY

A LOOK AHEAD TO WONDERFUL MUSIC THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

This term we have been working hard preparing for our big concert at Tewkesbury Abbey on Saturday 25 May when we join forces with Charlton Kings Choral Society in singing Mozart 'Requiem' and Haydn 'Theresienmesse'.

Thomas Mottershead (CCS) will conduct the Mozart and John Wright (CKCS) will conduct the Haydn. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to sing two beautiful and exciting works in a larger choir than usual, as well as a large orchestra, and we are very much looking forward to it. Rehearsals are going very well, so it promises to be a memorable evening.

Tickets are £25 for adults and £10 for under 25's. Unreserved seating. Concert starts at 7pm.

Available from: www.cheltchoral.org, www.ckcsonline.org.uk, and from Tewkesbury Abbey shop.

To finish off the summer term we shall be singing a beautiful selection of pieces at a free lunchtime concert at Malvern Priory on Saturday 6 July - check our website for further details www.cheltchoral.org:

Mozart: 'Lacrimosa' from Requiem

Stainer: 'God so loved the World' from The Crucifixion

Arthur Sullivan: The Long Day Closes

Schubert: 'Kyrie, Gloria, Sanctus, Agnus Dei' from Mass No 2 in G

Faure: 'Offertoire, Sanctus, Pie Jesu, In Paradisum' from Requiem



Our autumn concert will be at Pip & Jim's on Saturday 9 November. As it is the 100th Anniversary of Charles Villiers Stanford's death we shall be singing his 'Songs of the Sea' and 'Songs of the Fleet', as well as Five Partsongs by Gustav Holst, whose 150th birthday is being celebrated this year.

The following day we shall be leading the singing, along with the Cheltenham Silver Band, at the Remembrance Day Service on the Prom.

The year will be rounded off with our ever popular 'Tapestry of Christmas Music' on Wednesday 18 December. This year we shall be performing at Holy Apostles in Charlton Kings. We are delighted that as usual we shall be joined by Vicky Beauregard's three choirs, and a choir from St Mary's Prestbury School.

We always welcome new members. If you are interested in singing with us, please do get in touch and come along for a 'taster' session. We rehearse from 7.30 to 9.30 on Wednesday evenings at St Andrews United Reformed Church, Montpellier Street, Cheltenham. We have a keen Publicity team and it is worth checking our Facebook and Instagram accounts as well as our website to see what we have been up to.

Nikki Stephens



Cheltenham Choral Society

Reg Charity
No: 287756

FREE!

LUNCHTIME CHORAL CONCERT

Great Malvern Priory

Saturday 6th July 2024

1.15pm

Conductor: Thomas Mottershead

Organist: Alison Howell

Soprano: Cara-Jade Nichols

Retiring Collection

Choral pieces from: Haydn, Mozart, Stainer, Sullivan, Schubert, Faure

MORE INFORMATION

WWW.CHELTCHORAL.ORG

INFO@CHELTCHORAL.ORG

FACEBOOK: [@CHELTENHAMCS](https://www.facebook.com/CheltenhamChoralSociety)

INSTAGRAM: [@CHELTENHAMCHORAL](https://www.instagram.com/CheltenhamChoralSociety)

CAPTURE A MOMENT FOR COBALT 2024

Photography competition open
1st April – 31st July

- Get out and about with your camera
- Capture a moment
- Submit your entry for £2 per image
- Over £1,000 worth of prizes

For full details scan the QR code or visit
www.cobalthhealth.co.uk/photocomp



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