

Carleton Etherington – Conductor



Carleton has been the Society's Conductor since 2005. Under his direction the choir has achieved a reputation for high standards and concerts have been consistently well reviewed. Carleton is Organist and Director of Music at Tewkesbury Abbey and is also Director of the

festival of liturgical music *Musica Deo Sacra* held at the Abbey each summer. Educated at Chetham's and The Royal Academy of Music, Carleton combines his work at the Abbey with a busy teaching and performing career. He broadcasts regularly and has won considerable acclaim for his CD recordings.

Jenny Rees – Rehearsal Accompanist



Jenny Rees has been the Society's Accompanist since 2005. She trained at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama and, as well as piano, includes clarinet and composition in her musical armoury. Jenny has recently qualified and begun a new

career in nursing which she combines with her professional musical activities.

Extracts from recent concert reviews

"Cirencester Choral Society stunned a packed church with a beautifully crafted performance of J S Bach's Christmas Oratorio . . . The choir was resplendent in both its sound and unity, performing the chorales with a real depth and richness that complemented perfectly the solos that came between them. An evening not to be missed and a real treat for all those who were lucky enough to be there!" (Theresa Finzi, Dec 2018)

"Carleton Etherington is a first class musician and choir trainer; CCS is enormously fortunate in their conductor. This music requires control, and he kept it tight: it also requires refinement and there was plenty, with the choir drilled in important points of delicate phrasing and accentuation, all contributing to the atmosphere." (Charles Woodd, Wilts & Gloucestershire Standard, May 2019)

Membership

We are a thriving and friendly society with a membership of around 100. We invite applications from those interested in joining us at any time, but we are best placed to consider whether we can accept new members for the autumn and spring terms during the preceding summer and late autumn respectively. We normally close membership early in each term once rehearsals are well under way. At present we particularly encourage enquiries from tenors and basses. The 'Join Us' page of our website (*see below*) provides information about what we look for in our members, in terms of musical ability and commitment. There is a short on-line application form which all those interested in joining are required to complete. Other pages of the website tell you more about our history and our past and future activities.

Orchestral accompaniment 2019-20

We again look forward to performing with the excellent Cheltenham-based Corelli Orchestra for our two main 2019-20 concerts. Founded by the cellist and harpsichordist Warwick Cole, the orchestra began life as one of the few regionally-based period-instrument orchestras giving purely instrumental concerts. It has performed throughout the UK for various festivals, including the *Three Choirs*, and has appeared on BBC TV and Radio. The Corelli now specialises both in reviving lost or neglected music from the past and in providing accompaniment to choirs.

Contact us:

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Registered
Charity
No 276649



Thomas Linley the Younger, by Thomas Gainsborough (c 1772)

2019 – 2020

Favourites by Fauré, Rutter and Handel
and an introduction to Thomas Linley Jr,
the unsung 'English Mozart'

Cirencester Choral Society

The Society was founded in 1863. We perform two main concerts per year (autumn and spring), currently supplemented by a biennial Christmas Concert in support of a local charity and occasional one-day choral events in summer open to all singers. Through careful handling of our funds we manage to keep ticket prices for our concerts affordable and our membership fees competitive. This helps us attract good audiences and a high level of membership which in turn helps us to engage high quality orchestras and soloists for our concerts, making a real contribution to the cultural life of the town. We offer a varied musical programme, featuring works heard less often as well as much loved choral favourites. In recent years our concerts have featured works by Cherubini, Chilcott, Puccini, Pachelbel, Pergolesi, Purcell, Rossini, Salieri and Stanford as well as Bach, Elgar, Haydn, Mozart, Parry and Vivaldi. The Society is a Registered Charity and affiliated to *Making Music*, the National Federation of Music Societies.

Tickets for the Society's concerts go on sale four weeks before concert dates and are available from the Visitor Information Centre at the Corinium Museum, Park St, Cirencester, Tel 01285 654180.

Wider community engagement

Our biennial Christmas Charity Concerts have in recent years raised significant funds for local charitable campaigns and organisations, including the Campaign for Cirencester Parish Church (2010), the Churn Project (2013), Cirencester Housing for Young People (2015) and Citizens Advice Cotswold District (2017). At these events we aim to engage talented musicians from the county to share the platform, recently including winners of the *Gloucestershire Young Musician of the Year* competition and the recorder ensemble *Major Pipework*. We continue to enjoy a mutually-supportive arrangement with Churn to provide refreshments at our regular spring and autumn concerts.

Cirencester Choral Society

Season 2019-20

Sat 23 November 2019

7.30 Cirencester Parish Church

Fauré Requiem

Rutter Requiem

Conductor: Carleton Etherington

Corelli Ensemble

Organist: Hugo Kennard

Tickets £15 (Students £6, Children £3)

Fauré's *Requiem*, composed from 1887-90, is probably his best known work. It departs from more traditional and grander settings of the Latin Mass for the Dead, omitting the more strident movements such as the *Dies Irae* in favour of the gentle *Pie Jesu* and *In Paradisum*. The work has a light texture and instils peace and serenity rather than fear and dread. It is set for soprano and baritone soloists and chorus, with organ accompaniment in this performance.

John Rutter's *Requiem* (1985) for chorus and soprano soloist combines movements of the Latin liturgy with English texts from the Book of Common Prayer and two psalms, including his much loved setting of The Lord is my Shepherd. First performed in the USA, and optimistic in its message of hope and comfort, the Requiem was a popular choice for memorial services in the wake of the 9/11 tragedy. We will perform the chamber version with instrumental ensemble and organ.

Tues 17 December 2019

7.30 Cirencester Parish Church

Christmas Charity Concert

in support of the CHURN Project

Tickets £10 (accompanied children free)

Carols for Audience

Festive choral music

Seasonal readings by Judith Paris

Saxophone solos by Lydia Kenny,

Gloucestershire Young Musician 2018

Conductor: Carleton Etherington

Organist: David Whitehead



Sat 2 May 2020

7.30 Cirencester Parish Church

Handel: Coronation Anthems

Linley: Let God arise

Conductor: Carleton Etherington

Corelli Orchestra

Tickets £15 (Students £6, Children £3)

Handel's *Coronation Anthems* were composed for the coronation of King George II in 1727 and were Handel's first commission as a newly naturalised British subject. Best known of the four anthems is *Zadok the Priest*, sung at every coronation since. As befits a coronation, the anthems, set to appropriate biblical texts for orchestra and chorus, are both ceremonial and celebratory.

Thomas Linley Jr, born in Bath in 1756, died in a boating accident aged just 22. He was hailed in his lifetime as 'The English Mozart' after Mozart himself described him as 'a true genius'. The oratorio *Let God arise* is Linley's earliest surviving work, written for the Three Choirs Festival in 1773 and sung in Gloucester in 1775. Don't miss the opportunity to hear this rarely performed work for chorus, soloists and orchestra by an unsung west-country prodigy.

Concert dates for the 2020-21 season: Autumn: 5 December 2020; Spring: 8 May 2021

Programmes to be announced