

Autumn Leaves



*An Evening
of Choral Delights*

The Abbeydale Singers

Musical Director - Kevin Houghton

&

Tideswell Male Voice Choir

Musical Director - Dennis Kay

Guest Soloists:

Christopher Ellis - Piano

George Parsons - Organ

Saturday 15th October, 7.30pm

St John's Church, Ranmoor, Sheffield, S10 3GX

The Abbeydale Singers

Founded in Sheffield in 1986 as a group of twelve, the Abbeydale Singers have established a reputation as one of the region's foremost chamber choirs. Under Musical Director Kevin Houghton, numbers have gradually increased to thirty and their repertoire has widened considerably, ranging from early madrigals to contemporary 21st Century music. Members share a love of choral music and enjoy exploring its rich, diverse heritage. Their simple philosophy is to strive for the highest musical standards while having a good time in the process. They also regularly provide important performance opportunities for young solo instrumentalists, but tonight are delighted to be sharing this evening's concert with Tideswell Male Voice Choir.

The choir has won many prizes in the UK and tours have taken them to Dublin, Bangor, Budapest, Prague, Ghent and Bruges.

Early last year the choir recorded its new CD, entitled *Christmas at Chatsworth with the Abbeydale Singers*, in St Peter's Church, Edensor in association with Chatsworth House.

George Parsons

George is a freelance musician living in Sheffield. In addition to teaching the piano and the organ he is currently studying for a PhD, researching music by James MacMillan and Olivier Messiaen. He did his BA degree in Music at The Queen's College Oxford where he was also an organ scholar and has previously spent a year studying the organ at the Conservatorium van Amsterdam. He remains active as an organ recitalist and accompanist and is a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists. Prior to becoming a student again, George worked as the Music Coordinator at Christchurch Fulwood in Sheffield, the church he is still happy to call his home.

George regularly accompanies the Abbeydale Singers on both piano and organ.

Tideswell Male Voice Choir

T.M.V.C. rehearses in the small village of Tideswell in the Peak District where it is fortunate to have recently acquired its very own rehearsal premises, the historic old grammar school, dating from 1560. Now fully renovated, it provides the choir with a wonderful home from which to operate. Most members of the choir live within a ten mile radius of the village, but a number travel from as far away as Manchester and Sheffield.

The choir was formed in the early 1950s since when it has performed mainly locally but also at festivals/concerts all over the UK and abroad. Earlier this year, the choir was invited to visit the city of St David's where they were privileged to perform in the magnificent Cathedral. Following the event, a cheque for more than £600 was presented to Ysgol Croesgoch providing much needed funds to purchase new books for the school library.

The choir is now looking forward to 2012 when it will journey across the Atlantic to New England. They will be based in Boston, Massachusetts and will be performing a series of concerts with Sir Richard Arkwright's Masson Mills Band. The choir engages in events, especially at Christmas, with this superb brass band who are based in Matlock Bath, Derbyshire.

TMVC acquired a new purpose and vigour with the appointment of Dennis Kay as Director of Music in 2005 and since then it has taken giant strides, succeeding in making its voice heard far and wide to increasingly diverse audiences. In 2010, following a community project appropriately titled 'Come & Sing', its ranks were swelled by twenty five new members bringing the total number of singers to over sixty.

The choir is ever mindful of those less fortunate, and performs regularly for charitable causes. In the last two calendar years it raised over £12,000 for local cancer charities and in the past nine months has joined with bands

from the RAF and Royal Marines in two concerts each of which raised in the region of £9,000 for Help for Heroes

The choir is delighted to be here tonight as guests of the Abbeydale Singers. We trust you will enjoy our performance and thoroughly enjoy your evening.

For more information on the choir and/or to make comments on their guest page, take a look at www.tideswellmvc.co.uk.

**Christopher Ellis B. Mus, London (Hons.)
Principal Accompanist T.M.V.C.**

Having had his work praised by Vladimir Ashkenazy at an early age for a performance of Prokofiev's 5th piano concerto, Christopher Ellis has made his name for his precise mastery of the piano repertoire, 'breathtaking' performances and his 'unbelievable technical skill'.

Since graduating from the Royal Academy of Music with honours in 2004, Christopher has engaged audiences across Europe with his 'amazing' performances with his signature respect and passion for the piano repertoire. At fifteen years old, Christopher had his Royal Festival Hall debut where he performed Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue. More recent concerto performances include Tchaikovsky's 1st, Brahms 1st, Grieg Piano A minor and Rachmaninov's 2nd - all of which were received with great enthusiasm by capacity audiences.

Christopher's competition successes include the "Les Rencontres internationales des Jeunes Pianistes", "Musica Aeterna" International Competition, Royal Overseas League and when he finished his studies at Chethams School of Music in Manchester, he was awarded the Keyboard Prize.

Currently based in Manchester, Christopher has returned to studies with Simon Bottomley and maintains a busy performance schedule across the UK.

Tonight's Programme

The Abbeydale Singers

All creatures now
Never weather beaten sail
Les fleurs et les arbres
North country folk songs:
Marianne
Byker hill

*John Bennett
Richard Shephard
Camille. Saint-Saëns
Arr. Philip Wilby*

Christopher Ellis

Three preludes

George Gershwin

Tideswell Male Voice Choir

You'll never walk alone
There is nothing like a dame
Unchained melody
Let it be me

Anthem

*Rodgers & Hammerstein
Rodgers & Hammerstein
Alex North & Hy Zaret
Gilbert Becaud & Pierre Delanoe
trans. Mann Curtis
Benny Andersson & Björn Ulvaeus*

Interval

The Abbeydale Singers

Rhythm of life
Frankie and Johnny
Autumn leaves
La bamba

*Cy Colman arr. James Wild
Arr. Robert De Cormier
Arr. Andrew Carter
Adapted Richie Valens. Arr. Jon Halton*

George Parsons

Toccata

Théodore Dubois

Tideswell Male Voice Choir

Rachie
American trilogy
What a wonderful world
Hallelujah
Sinatra Medley

*Arr. Alwyn Humphreys
Arr. Bob Curnow
Bob Thiele & George Weiss
Leonard Cohen
Arr. A Simmons*

During the interval the choir will serve you with
complimentary celebratory refreshments

Copies of CDs by both choirs will be available for sale tonight:

Tideswell Male Voice Choir
Musical Director: Dennis Kay



Tenor 1

Tom Barker, Malcolm Bennison, Keith Deighton, Tom Eccles, Roy Edge, Terry Furness, Eric Hall, Maurice Hargreaves, Olly Kidd, Ted Mosley, Jess Oakley, Bill Preece, Derek Rhodes, Alan Talbot, Ray Vaughan, Ray Whiteley, Nigel Willis

Tenor 2

Andy Bowes, John Bradley, Terry Chaisty, Nobby Chappell, Nick Christie, Derrick Croft, Ken Gilliver, Stuart Gordon, Jeff Hipwell, Matthew Hopkins, David Hurley, Sean Jennings, Phil Kerry, Ivan Lee, Phil Moody, Peter Sinclair, David Walton, Ian White

Bass 1

John Agg, Jon Batsford, Martin Bisknell, Alan Brignell, John Edlington, Charlie Fitcher, Kevin Gill, Mick Hague, Phil Heyworth, Les Hipwell, Wilf Hukin, Terry Lomas, Roger Plank, John Riches, Phil Rigley, David Torrington, Keith Woolley

Bass 2

Michael Beale, Norman Bennett, Paul Cobbold, Tony Cosic, Paul Dinsdale, Wilsh Finney, Bill Hesp, Peter Humphrey, Thong Lam, Richard Lawson, Louis Love, David Morton, David Pinnegar, Peter Rowson, Rod Topliss

The Abbeydale Singers

Musical Director: Kevin Haighton



Photo: Andy Curtis

Sopranos

Naomi Baynes, Ann Charlett-Day, Michelle Hayward, Aparna Kapoor, Kirsty Parsons, Hilary Pye, Sarah Rooper, Anna Ryder, Rebecca Smith, Julia Stockton, Mary Taylor, Pat Turner

Contraltos

Helen Beach, Rachel Cockroft, Helen Cowen, Sue Haighton, Alice Newitt, Rachel Pointon, Rachael Nyarko, Linda Wareham

Tenors

Nick Baynes, Stuart Evans, Peter King, Chris Nicholson, Chris Varnom

Basses

Nigel Boucher, Michael Hannon, Steve Holden, Matthew Lovell, Peter Thompson, Robert Wareham

Future dates for your diary:

Saturday 17 December

Christmas Concert, St Mark's Church, Broomhill, Sheffield

If you would like to join our email contact list, please fill in one of our contact slips and hand it to a member of the choir.

The Abbeydale Singers are available to sing at special events of all kinds such as weddings, anniversaries, birthdays, conferences and dinners. Contact our Secretary, for more information:

Tel: 0114 2685493, email: enquiries@abbeydalesingers.org.uk,
www.abbeydalesingers.org.uk

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