

A personal welcome from Kevin Haighton

Good evening ladies and gentlemen.

We are delighted you are able to join us for this evening's performance which we hope you enjoy. If I may, I would like to take a moment to share with you some of the highlights of our year which has been very exciting, eventful and rewarding.

In September we travelled to the wonderful Cathedral of the Peak in Tideswell to share an enjoyable joint concert with Tideswell Male Voice Choir following their previous trip to Sheffield. The following month we embarked upon our now traditional biennial trip abroad, on this occasion travelling to Seville in Spain. Here we sang in a variety of splendid and marvellously ornate settings and were delighted, if not a little surprised, to receive a standing ovation for our performance of the Sunday Mass service.

We then joined forces with the internationally acclaimed Orlando Consort at Sheffield Cathedral for a concert of 12th Century choral music before commencing our traditionally busy Christmas season. This included singing with Sheffield Fellowship in their Christmas Cavalcade at the City Hall and our annual festive concert at St. Mark's Church, Broomhill. We concluded the season with our customary carols in the hostelrys with this year's donations supporting the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Since then life has been a little less hectic, primarily due to a concert falling victim to the snow. Please check the 'Future Dates for your Diary' section for details of this postponed event. In early May a small selection of singers entertained the children and staff at Ecclesall Infant School as part of their 'talented parents' festival and later that month we returned to the City Hall for a further, this time very patriotic Sheffield Fellowship Cavalcade.

We're very pleased that tonight's concert is one of over 40 Sheffield-based events which form part of the excellent

festival 'A Boy was Born', celebrating the centenary of Benjamin Britten's birth. Not surprisingly then the first half of the programme is devoted to works by the composer, whilst in the second half we turn to the music of Eric Whitacre, Gabriel Jackson and John Rutter.

In addition to the choral performances we're also delighted to welcome as our young guest soloist this evening the very gifted performer Peter Hall, accompanied in the first half by George Parsons and joined in the second by a string quartet comprising performers from the City of Sheffield Youth Orchestra.

Thank you so much for supporting us. We do very much hope you enjoy this evening's performance and look forward to seeing you again.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Houghton', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kevin Houghton, Musical Director

Tonight's Programme

Old Joe has gone fishing

Benjamin Britten

Hymn to St. Cecilia

Benjamin Britten

Peter Hall

Clarinet Concerto No.1 in F Minor

Carl Maria von Weber

1. Allegro

Carry her over the water

Benjamin Britten

Five flower songs:

Benjamin Britten

1. To daffodils

2. The succession of the four sweet months

3. Marsh flowers

4. The evening primrose

5. Ballad of green broom

Interval

When David heard

Eric Whitacre

Peter Hall

Adagio for Clarinet and Strings in D Flat

Heinrich Baermann

O sacrum convivium

Gabriel Jackson

Let us all rejoice in the Lord

Gabriel Jackson

Song (I gaze upon you)

Gabriel Jackson

Five childhood lyrics

John Rutter

1. Monday's child

2. The owl and the pussy-cat

3. Windy nights

4. Matthew, Mark, Luke and John

5. Sing a song of sixpence

During the interval the choir will serve you with
complimentary refreshments

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 increased and the choir's repertoire has widened considerably ranging from the earliest madrigals to contemporary 21st Century music. The choir regularly sings in Latin, Italian, French, German and Spanish, with occasional excursions into Czech, Hungarian, Russian and Welsh.

Members share a love of choral music and enjoy exploring its rich, diverse heritage. Their philosophy is to strive for the highest musical standards, enjoying themselves in the process.

The choir has won many prizes in the UK and has sung in Dublin, Budapest, Bangor, Prague, Ghent, Bruges and Seville. They have recorded two CDs – *A Fine Song for Singing* and most recently *Christmas at Chatsworth* recorded at St Peter's Church, Edensor, and produced by the distinguished York-based composer Andrew Carter. Full details of these recordings appear on the website.

Originally from Studland in Dorset, Kevin Houghton started his career as a chorister and graduated in music from what is now Bath Spa University. Having enjoyed a distinguished career in music education he now divides his musical time between The Abbeydale Singers and Sheffield Chorale where he is Assistant Director.

Future dates for your diary:

Friday 4 October – Sheffield Music Club Concert
St Andrew's Church, Psalter Lane, Sheffield

Saturday 14 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.

Peter Hall

Peter Hall is a Year 13 student at King Edward VII School, studying for A-levels in Music, French and German. He has been playing clarinet for 10 years, and is currently learning with Zoë Barker.

He attends Sheffield Music School on Saturday mornings, where he plays in and directs chamber ensembles. He also plays clarinet and bass clarinet in the Sheffield Music Service Senior Orchestra and the City of Sheffield Youth Orchestra, and has recently been awarded the Bradfield Young Musician of the Year Award for his contributions to the Sheffield Music Service ensembles.

In his free time, Peter enjoys climbing, mountaineering and cycling. After completing his A-levels, he hopes to go on to study music at St. Peter's College, Oxford University.

In the second half of the concert Peter will be accompanied by a string quartet comprising players drawn from the City of Sheffield Youth Orchestra:

Elizabeth Heyes (violin 1), Thomas Hetherington (violin 2), Naomi Fearon (viola) and Joe Green (cello).

George Parsons – piano accompaniment

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.

The Abbeydale Singers

Musical Director: Kevin Houghton



Photo: Andy Curtis

Sopranos: Naomi Baynes, Ann Charlett-Day, Michelle Hayward, Kirsty Prince, Hilary Pye, Sarah Rooper, Anna Ryder, Julia Stockton, Mary Taylor, Pat Turner

Contraltos: Helen Beach, Rachel Cockroft, Helen Cowen, Sue Houghton, 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

Secretary: Hilary Pye Tel: 0114 2685493
Email: enquiries@abbeydalesingers.org.uk
Website: www.abbeydalesingers.org.uk