

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 as much as we have in preparing for it. If I may, I would like to take a moment to share with you some of the highlights of our year which has been exciting, eventful and rewarding.

In October we sang for Sheffield Music Club at St. Andrew's Psalter Lane before later in the same month singing for the Probus Club as part of their after dinner entertainment. We then embarked upon our traditionally busy Christmas season which commenced by way of carols for the Crucible foyer Christmas market. This was followed the very next day by a performance in the Peace Gardens for Real Radio's switching on of the City's Christmas lights. We then joined with Sheffield Fellowship under the baton of Keith Roe in their Christmas Cavalcade at the City Hall followed by our annual Christmas concert at St. Mark's Broomhill with the festive choral season concluding by way of our customary carols in the hostelrys with this year's donations supporting Friends of the Porter Valley.

Since then life has been equally exciting. In March we were delighted to take part in Music in the Round's Schubert Festival in the Crucible Studio Theatre following which we had the pleasure of singing at the wedding of a friend of the choir and in April we strengthened our link still further with Friends of the Porter Valley by performing a concert in aid of the charity at King Edward's school.

May was a bitter sweet month for us. We should have been singing again with Keith Roe, but instead, following a sudden deterioration in his health after the diagnosis of a brain tumour, together with the Sheffield Fellowship choir, were invited to sing for his funeral. I hope you'll allow me to express my admiration for such a man and musician who over the years did so much to inspire the lives of so many and in the process raise significant sums for charity.

In June a small selection of singers entertained the children and staff at Ecclesall Infant School as part of their 'talented parents' festival following which all those that were available performed in York Minster in the City's musical tribute to Le Tour de France. The following day we took part in a service at our rehearsal venue, Fulwood Old Chapel, as part of their "What Music means to me" celebration and later this month some singers will be trying something completely different, by backing the band See Emily Play in the cathedral as part of the Tramlines festival. A busy year!

For tonight's performance, we commence proceedings in our customary manner from the back of the church after which we perform a selection of English sacred music which gives us the opportunity to welcome George Parsons as our accompanist. We continue with sacred music, firstly German by way of Anton Bruckner and thereafter Irish, by way of Michael McGlynn, which offer two very contrasting soundscapes.

Madrigals and folk songs feature in the 2nd half, the latter again returning to Ireland and which, along with the McGlynn selection from earlier we intend to take to Dublin in October. Tonight's proceedings conclude by way of three stunning arrangements by Ward Swingle followed by some Duke Ellington 'swing'!

In addition to the choral performances we're also delighted to welcome this evening our guest soloist, the very gifted performer Emily Fox. 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. Haighton', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Kevin Haighton, Musical Director

Tonight's Programme

Tu es Petrus	<i>Maurice Duruflé</i>
If ye love me	<i>Thomas Tallis</i>
Ave Maria	<i>Robert Parsons</i>
Like as the hart desireth the waterbrooks	<i>Herbert Howells</i>
One thing have I desired	<i>Herbert Howells</i>

Emily Fox - Bassoon

Sonata in F Major	<i>William Hurlstone</i>
1 st and 4 th movements	

Locus iste a Deo factus est	<i>Anton Bruckner</i>
Christus factus est pro nobis obediens	<i>Anton Bruckner</i>
Pie Jesu	<i>Michael McGlynn</i>
Pater noster	<i>Michael McGlynn</i>
Behind the closed eye	<i>Michael McGlynn</i>

Interval

Come away, sweet love	<i>Thomas Greaves</i>
April is in my mistress' face	<i>Thomas Morley</i>
Adieu, sweet Amaryllis	<i>John Wilbye</i>
The lark in the clear air	<i>trad. arr. Andrew Carter</i>
I would be true	<i>trad. arr. Andrew Carter</i>

Emily Fox - Flute

Sonate pour flute et piano	<i>Francis Poulenc</i>
1 st movement	

Piper's dream	<i>Cecilia McDowall</i>
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It was a lover and his lass	<i>Ward Swingle</i>
Romance	<i>Ward Swingle</i>
All the things you are	<i>Kern Arr. Ward Swingle</i>
It don't mean a thing	<i>Ellington Arr. Paris Rutherford</i>

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.

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* (the title of tonight's concert) and more recently *Christmas at Chatsworth* recorded at St Peter's Church, Edensor, and produced by the distinguished York-based composer Andrew Carter. Copies of the CDs are available tonight

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:

Saturday 20 September – St Andrew's Church, Psalter Lane
The choir will participate in a charity concert for Marie Curie Cancer Care

Saturday 13 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.

Emily Fox – Dip. ABRSM

Emily is 18 years old and has just completed her A level studies with a view to studying music at Nottingham University later this year. She hopes to teach music and pass on her love of playing the flute.

Emily began playing the flute aged 8, passed grade 8 with distinction in 2011 and gained a distinction in a flute diploma earlier this year. She also plays bassoon (again achieving grade 8 distinction), piano and saxophone.

She has played with Derby City & County Wind Band, a highlight being a tour to Japan in October 2013, Derby City & County Youth Orchestra, and other local senior level ensembles.

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 Abbeydale Singers

Musical Director: Kevin Houghton



Photo: Andy Curtis

Sopranos: Naomi Baynes, Sarah Brown, Ann Charlett-Day, Michelle Hayward, Emily Pieters, 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, Pam Mathieson, 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

Programme designed and compiled by Hilary Pye
Cover art by Robert Wareham.

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