

Musical Director Report May 2024

Thank you all for another very successful year. I enjoy all the fun and friendship we have together as we create some truly remarkable and memorable performances.

I was pleased with our performance of Charpentier's Mess De Minuit, the lovely light choral mass balanced Rutter's carols beautifully. The second half worked very effectively, giving our audience an opportunity to join us in lustily-sung carols. The whole performance felt well-rehearsed and comfortable. The opportunity to sing very well-known pieces with a little bit of challenge with a more unfamiliar work was a good balance. As always, I am indebted to Angela for her consistent rehearsal accompaniment (and directorship), together with her sensitive and effective performance playing. The addition of the flute alongside the piano gave a different and welcome change of texture and dynamic which enhanced the accompaniment. I would be keen to repeat the use of complementary instruments where appropriate for those concerts where we don't have an orchestra. Many thanks to David Joyce for his solo work in the Fantasia and to Nicole Willis for the additional flute work.

I was thrilled with our Spring performance – truly one of our best productions ever. The Faure Requiem was delivered with drama and pathos whilst retaining all the lightness, musicality and lyrical, beautiful character. It was a real joy to bring Howard Goodall's "Eternal Light" back to the Minehead audience. I received so many comments from members of the society about loving learning the work and from the appreciative audience, many of whom were unfamiliar with this but left moved and enlightened by the work. There were so many moments in the performance that were just extraordinary to experience. A delight to work with Stephanie Berner and Jamie Rock our soloists and, again, a huge thank you to Angela for her excellent, supportive accompaniment, moving from organ to piano to complement and supplement the orchestra.

So we pulled off a couple of great concerts, despite the challenges of a reduced tenor and bass section. Future programs may have to be adjusted to reflect the balance of the choir, but again, we retain our place as the only society of its kind in West Somerset that can tackle the larger choral works. Financially, we will need to access grants or other sources of income to continue to enjoy having an orchestra and soloists join us. Thank you our committee and Members for all your hard work and dedication.

Marcus Capel, May 2024

Forthcoming Concerts:

Autumn Concert 2024 **Saturday 30th November**

Rutter 'Magnificat', Ariel Ramirez 'Navidad Nuestra' and choral anthems.

Rehearsals to Commence 10th September 2024

Spring Concert 2025 Saturday April 5th Mozart 'Requiem' and Rossini 'Stabat Mater'

Autumn Concert 2025 Saturday November 29th Chilcott 'On Christmas Night',
Jerry Rubin 'An American Christmas', Rutter Carols

Spring Concert 2026 Saturday March 28th George Shearing 'Songs and Sonnets', Rutter Anthems
Musicals or Popular

Autumn Concert 2026 Saturday November 28th Messiah