

About Nottingham Harmonic Choir



President: Prof. John Morehen Music Director: Richard Laing

Since its foundation in 1856, the Nottingham Harmonic Choir, Nottingham's civic choir, has established itself as one of the leading provincial choirs in Britain. In its early years the names of Charles Hallé and Sir Arthur Sullivan were among those associated with the choir. At the beginning of the twentieth century its principal conductor was Henry Wood, later to become Sir Henry Wood, conductor of the first Promenade Concerts. Following Noel Cox and Andrew Burnham, a twenty-year distinguished period of musical achievement under the guidance of gifted choral director Neil Page led to a brief stewardship under international conductor Murray Stewart.

Richard Laing, appointed chorus master and director of music in 2009, brings a new, vibrant and youthful approach building upon the last period of successful development by his illustrious predecessors.

The choir has regularly performed with guest conductors in addition to its Director of Music. Sir Adrian Boult, Sir Malcolm Sargent, Owain Arwel Hughes, Norman Del Mar, James Loughran and George Weldon are among those who have worked with the choir. In the last twenty years the choir has been privileged to be directed on several occasions by Laszlo Heltay, Richard Hickox, Sir Charles Groves and Sir David Willcocks. More recently, in partnership with Nottingham Classics, the Harmonic Choir has worked under John Wilson with City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra in 2008, and formed a new working relationship with the Hallé under Cristian Mandeal in 2011 and Sir Mark Elder in 2012 and 2013.

After using its own amateur orchestras (adult and youth training) until the 1970s the choir has worked with professional orchestras from within the region and has performed most often with Orchestra da Camera. Guest appearances with national orchestras have included the CBSO, BBC Concert Orchestra, Northern Sinfonia, RPO, Philharmonia and the Hallé. The choir has even featured in a concert with ELO, extending its repertoire to Queen's *Bohemian Rhapsody* and *We will Rock You*. The choir has recorded exclusively for Priory in two CDs of Christmas music with the Thoresby Colliery Band. In December 2010 the choir and band gave the world première performance of a new Christmas carol *The Seven Joys* commissioned from composer Tim Sutton.

The full choir, numbering over 200 singers at the time, performed at the opening of Nottingham's magnificent Royal Concert Hall, which has become the venue for the majority of the its concerts. In addition to its concerts in the Royal Concert Hall the choir has accepted invitations on numerous occasions to perform in other venues including the Royal Albert Hall, London. Most summers however, it is to the sublime surroundings of Southwell Minster, where the friendly atmosphere and fine acoustics complement much of the earlier classical repertoire performed by the choir.

For further details of forthcoming concerts and membership of Nottingham's civic choir please see our website www.NottinghamHarmonic.org

Opportunities for Individual Supporters



A Message from Richard Laing Music Director

We are the music makers, and we are the dreamers of dreams...

So begins Arthur O'Shaughnessy's ode, set to music by Sir Edward Elgar. Yet without you, our friends and our supporters, our work has little meaning. Performance is a partnership between choir and audience, and the unique thrill of a live concert is a very special shared experience.

Each season we strive to create an exhilarating and moving sequence of concerts, performing music that uplifts, inspires, and hopefully unites, in a world where too often we seem to be separate and alone. If, like us, you share our vision of music as a renewing force, which many times has *wrought flame in another man's heart*, to quote O'Shaughnessy again, then perhaps you will consider becoming more closely involved with our work.

We are very proud to be associated with some of the greatest soloists and orchestras in the country. However, putting on concerts is an expensive business, and every pledge of support means that our music-making is more secure for the future. We have packages to suit all budgets, and can tailor packages to suit you. You might consider sponsoring a section of the choir, a soloist, the hire of music, or some other aspect of performance which particularly intrigues you.

However you choose to support us, be it with financial assistance, logistical help, promotion, or simply with your continued and all-important presence at our performances you are, just as much us, *the music makers, the dreamers of dreams*.

Thank you; I look forward to meeting you at one of our concerts.




Annual Benefits Packages

	Gold Patron	Silver Patron	Friend
Price	£600	£100	£15 min.
Copy of our annual brochure	●	●	●
Tickets for our concerts (4 concerts annually)	4 per concert		Concessionary rate on 4 full price tickets per concert
In house ticket ordering scheme	●	●	●
Early booking for concerts through the choir	●	●	●
Credit on website	●	●	●
Credit in concert programmes	●	●	●
VIP drinks reception during intervals	●	●	
Opportunity to observe Monday evening rehearsals	●	●	●
Invitations to choir social events	●	●	●
Letter from Music Director previewing season	●	●	●
Copy of programme at concerts	●	●	●

Gold Patrons are very welcome to purchase additional tickets and attend a VIP drinks reception for concerts beyond their basic package if they wish to entertain extra guests.

The Silver Patron package may be particularly attractive to supporters who wish to donate using Gift Aid. This enhances the donation by a further 25% that we can claim back from the tax authorities. Donors can claim income tax relief at their marginal rate on the full amount.

The Friends membership takes account of the different needs of supporters who simply wish to keep in touch with the choir.

We are very happy to work with any intended individual supporter to create a tailor-made package that best suits your needs and interests. For example, you may choose to sponsor a soloist, the conductor or the orchestra. We can create a bespoke package just for you! If you represent a business or other organisation that might like to support the choir, please ask for a copy of our Corporate Sponsorship brochure showing a specially designed range of attractive benefit packages.

Next Steps

The choir relies heavily on the generosity of its supporters and members for funding. Please help by discussing any of our benefit packages or other opportunities with John Parry on 0115-960-4606 or email GetInvolved@NottinghamHarmonic.org