

ACS Musical Notes

Summer 2024 Newsletter



AYLESBURY
Choral Society



"...the result was beautiful and nothing short of celestial"

"A chance to savour the Choral Society's performances should never be missed."

Simon Pogson (*The Bucks Herald* review, 25th March 2021)

For the first time in a long time, ACS performed a 'themed' concert on March 25th, presenting six vastly different compositions based on the text of the Magnificat (Mary's song when she was told by the angel that she would conceive the Son of God). In some cases, these were accompanied, also, by musical performances of the Nunc Dimittis as they would be paired in a service of Evensong. These six compositions were by Bach, Pärt, Purcell, Dupré, Walmisley and Vivaldi and they were performed with the ever brilliant Aylesbury Sinfonia with Felicity Davies, Melissa Stewart, Janet Shell, Adam West and Andrew Mayor as the fantastic vocal soloists. The whole was, as always, directed by our Jeff Stewart. A full review of the concert in the electronic version of *The Bucks Herald* can be read at <https://www.bucksherald.co.uk/arts-and-culture/a-magnificat-performance-from-aylesbury-choral-society-4567717>. We had a capacity audience at St Mary's Church in Aylesbury who enjoyed the evening and were extremely appreciative of the range of music - The *Purcell* being written in the late 17th century and the *Pärt* in 1989 - and the scope from the a cappella *Pärt* to the essentially organ piece (interspersed by verses of plainsong) by Dupré, to the full orchestral accompaniment of the *Bach* and *Vivaldi* works (the pieces by *Walmisley* and *Purcell* had also been specially orchestrated for the evening as they would normally be accompanied on the organ as part of a church service). This concert was our second full orchestral choral concert of the season and these are proving particularly successful and attractive to audiences.

Now the choir starts preparing for its lighter and smaller-scale, but no less brilliant, summer concert on June 15th. This is a concert of two contrasting halves which we are calling *From Ancient to Modern*. The first half, entirely a cappella, will consist of the moving and developmentally important *Missa Brevis* by Palestrina, together with three of Anton Bruckner's motets (including the much-loved *Locus Iste*). The second half, in a complete contrast, will consist of what the choir has become rightly well-known for in the last few years: an evening of music from the jazz and musical theatre ages with works such as *Stranger in Paradise*, *Shenandoah*, *Dry Bones*, and *Country Gardens*. The concert will be directed by Jeff Stewart with Colin Spinks at the piano; and it will take place at St Mary's Church, Aylesbury. Get your tickets early as there is likely to be a high demand for this programme on a beautiful summer's evening. Tickets are available online from www.aylesburychoral.org.uk from April 22nd; 'physical' tickets will be available from about the same time, from acschairman@gmail.com and choir members.

Our ticket prices:

Adults:	£16 (£18 on the door)
Under 18:	£6 (£7 on the door)

From Ancient to Modern
A concert of Music from the Renaissance to the Twentieth Century

AYLESBURY CHORAL SOCIETY

Conducted: Jeff Stewart
Piano: Colin Spinks

Saturday 15 June, 7:30pm
St Mary's Church, Aylesbury
HP20 2JJ

Tickets:
Adults: £16 (£18 on the door)
Under 18: £6 (£7)

www.aylesburychoral.org.uk
ticketsource.co.uk/
aylesbury-choral-acssoc
acschairman@gmail.com
any choir member

AYLESBURY Choral Society

Into the Summer and the 2024-5 season

As stated above, our next concert will take place on Saturday 15th June at St Mary's Church: *From Ancient to Modern*. It is also our intention over the next few weeks to put on a social event which will take the form of an evening of entertainment put on by our very own members. The date and venue of this is still to be confirmed but do keep an eye out on our website for further information - www.aylesburychoral.org.uk. This will be a opportunity for ACS members to 'show off' their skills, talents and interests through performances of music, readings, poetry, dance or whatever else represents these skills. It will be a great evening of wonder, surprises, laughter and social interaction. Please do consider coming along once the date is published.

Our rehearsals for the summer term commence on Tuesday 16th April at 7:30pm at The Church on Fairford Leys. Please join us. Music will be provided. Further information can be found on our website (see above).

After the summer break, we re-convene to start rehearsing for our Autumn concert on Tuesday September 3rd. Our Autumn programme consists of Rossini's beautiful and stirring *Petite Messe Solennelle*, performed as it was written by Rossini, with an accompaniment of piano and harmonium. The concert is on Saturday 7th December. Then, next Easter (2025), on Saturday 5th April, ACS will be performing, with an orchestra, Mozart's much-loved *Coronation Mass* together with the lesser known but no less wonderful, *Quarta Messe* by Marianna Martines (1744 - 1812). Both of these concerts will, once again, be performed at St Mary's Church in the centre of Aylesbury. Look out on our website for tickets.

Finally, have you seen our 'new' website? It is now up-and-running and fully operational (except the members' area for the present) at <https://www.aylesburychoral.org.uk>. Do take a look and let Chris Dalladay know if you spot any glaring mistakes or issues (acschairman@gmail.com). It really does have a completely new look and 'feel'.

Would you like to join us?



If you are interested in becoming a member of ACS, do come along to a couple of rehearsals - free of charge - to try out what it is like to sing with us. After this trial period, you will be asked to do a short voice assessment so that we can tell which is the best voice section for you. Being able to read music is an advantage but by no means essential and we give help with learning the music, e.g. by providing audio rehearsal files and Internet links to note-learning websites or within the rehearsals themselves. Please contact our membership secretary at moira.membership@gmail.com or our chairman, Chris Dalladay, at acschairman@gmail.com. We meet at The Church on Fairford Leys, Hampden Square, Aylesbury HP19 7HT on Tuesdays during school term times at 7:30pm. Music will be provided.

Our next 'Open' rehearsal is on 23rd April - all are welcome.



If you would like to join our mailing list, please jot a brief email to our chairman, Chris Dalladay, at acschairman@gmail.com letting him know your name and email address.