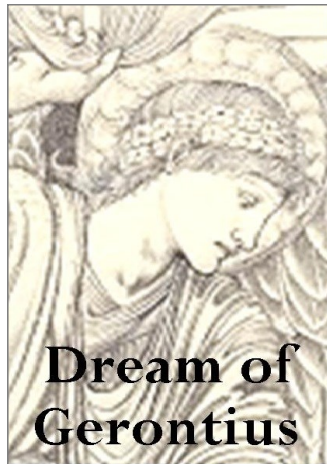


Congleton Choral Society

half a century of singing



Magnificent
Mozart



Dream of
Gerontius

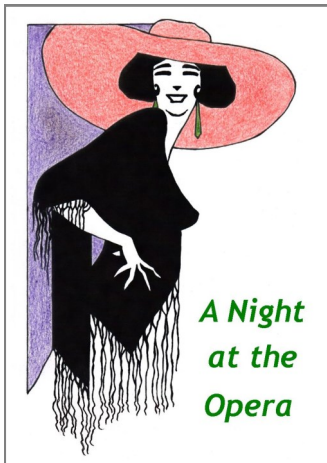


The Armed Man
a mass for peace
Karl Jenkins

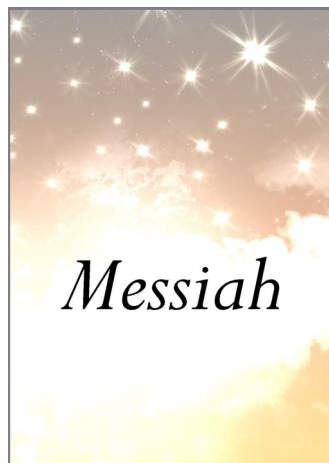
Eternal Light
Howard Goodall



Lest We Forget
1914 ~ 1918



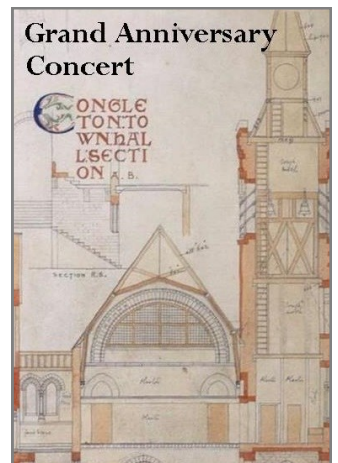
*A Night
at the
Opera*



Messiah



Of Love
and Music

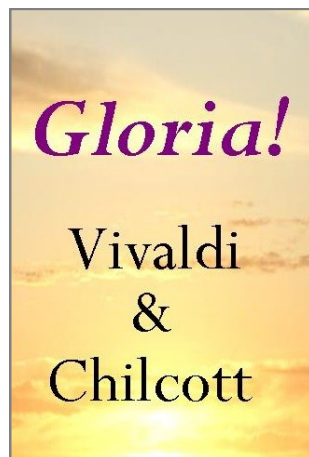


Grand Anniversary
Concert

CONGLE
TONTO
VNHAL
LSECTII
ON A. B.



St John Passion
J S Bach

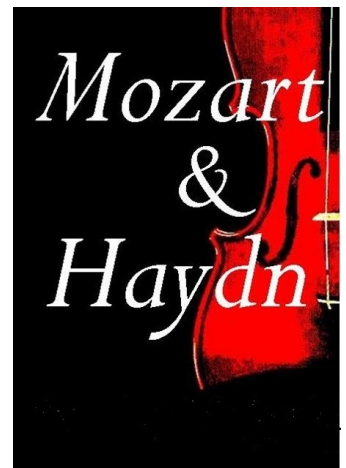


Gloria!

Vivaldi
&
Chilcott



On Angel's Wing



*Mozart
&
Haydn*

Haydn - Nelson (Imperial Mass) Charpentier - Te Deum Pergolesi - Magnificat Karl Jenkins -
The Armed man, a Mass for Peace Joannes Brahms - German Requiem Ralph Vaughan Williams
- Five Mystical Songs Cecilia McDowall - On Angel's Wing George Shearing - Songs and
Sonnets of Shakespeare
Johannes Brahms - Lieberslieder Waltzes and Neue Lieberslieder Waltzes Handel - Messiah Vi-
valdi - Gloria Bob Chilcott - Requiem Handel - Dixit Dominus John Rutter - Feel the Spirit
Mozart - Requiem
fle - Requiem Joseph Haydn - Cantique
Stainer - Maundeville
Gloria Vaughan Williams
Gerontius Stanford
Love and Life Elizabeth
Goodall - Eternal
uiem Mozart - Great Mass in C minor Mozart - Solemn Vespers John Brunning - Amazing Day
Bob Chilcott - Five Days That Changed The World John Rutter - This Is The Day Henry
Wood - Fantasia on a Theme by Haydn
Haydn - Nelson (Imperial Mass) The Armed man, a Mass for Peace
- Five Mystical Songs Cecilia McDowall - On Angel's Wing George Shearing - Songs and
Sonnets of Shakespeare
Johannes Brahms - Lieberslieder Waltzes and Neue Lieberslieder Waltzes Handel - Messiah Vi-
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History of Congleton Choral Society 1971-2021
researched, designed and compiled
by Jill Milne and Sandie Boynton



Half a century of singing with Congleton Choral Society



Who would have believed that at the time of writing, in Congleton Choral Society's 50th Anniversary year, we would be unable to rehearse and perform together as a choir? Thanks to Covid, face to face contact has been out of bounds, and singing limited to Zoom rehearsals conducted via our computer screens.

In these strangest of times, our committee decided that we should commemorate the choir's half-century by producing a booklet about the history of Congleton Choral Society (CCS). The following pages are the result of several months spent reminiscing and delving into members' personal archives. There was a wealth of material to sift through, and so much that had to be left out; it's hoped that the result presents a series of representative 'snapshots' of the history of CCS, and a flavour of what it means to be a member of this much-loved choir.

There are so many people to thank that it's impossible to name them all. (You know who you are!)

Firstly, thanks to all the choir members past and present who lent us their treasured photographs, programmes and uniforms to illustrate these pages.

Huge thanks are due to the innumerable people who have worked so hard behind the scenes over the years to support the choir, to enable its smooth running and to facilitate concert performances.

Vital contributions have always been and continue to be made by the loyal and hard-working choir members who generously give up their time to sit on committees and concert management teams. Over the years there have been hundreds of members who have taken on the roles (in no particular order) of chairmen, secretaries, treasurers, membership secretaries, section representatives, publicity officers, designers and compilers of posters and programmes, librarians, wardrobe mistresses, webmasters, and this year, organisers of our Zoom rehearsals.

For the smooth running of every concert we depend entirely on our families and friends, who act as front-of-house volunteers. These invaluable people carry out important duties, from welcoming and ushering in the audience and VIPs, selling tickets, programmes and raffle tickets, to organising car parking. All are valued members of the CCS community and deserve our grateful thanks.

Now, embarking on our second half-century, we welcome our new MD Tom Newall to launch CCS on the next stage of the musical journey we share together. It will doubtless be as varied and exciting as our first fifty years. To (mis-)quote a popular long-running TV series: Keep Singing!

A full list of all the works the choir has ever performed can be seen on the CCS website, www.congletonchoralsociety.org.uk, with details about past events and a gallery of photographs.

Many photographs can also be found on our Facebook page.



Commemorative flowerbed in Congleton Park designed by Patti Pinto



The Early Years of the Choral Society: 1971-1975



Congleton Choral Society was founded in 1971 by Gladys Worthington. The inaugural concert was at Christmas that year in Astbury Church. The performance included a varied selection of traditional carols, baritone solo pieces and contributions from the junior choir.

Mrs Worthington wrote in her Message from the Chairman: *'It is with great pride and pleasure that I present to you the Congleton and District Choral Society. This is their first public performance and I hope it will be the forerunner of many pleasurable and entertaining occasions. The choir was formed in July of this year, and the concert tonight is the result of much hard work by all the members. Much of the praise must go to Mr Alan Baker, our musical director and conductor, and Mr C L Williams, our most patient and conscientious accompanist, for their untiring efforts. We also thank the Rev Eric Pratt for his help during rehearsals. Our junior section has one specific aim; that of stimulating an interest in singing in the young, so preparing them for the senior choir in later years. I hope you enjoy the concert we have prepared, and I thank you for your support. A very happy Christmas to you all.'*



There were four Music Directors during that time: Alan Baker (1971-72), Rev George Pratt (1972-73), Pam Eaton (1973-74), and Ray Woodfine (1974-75).

Pictured here is Ray Woodfine, taking a rehearsal in the gymnasium at Danesford School, now the New Life Church.

Reminiscences from Beryl Sheard, Vice President and a founder member of the Choral Society

After seeing an advertisement in the Chronicle, requesting anyone interested in choral music to meet one Monday night at Danesford School in 1971, my daughter Ann and I wanted to know more. We had always sung in festivals and Ann was an accomplished pianist and singer.

A lot of other people were similarly interested, and Alan Baker was there as Musical Director, with Gerry Williams, organist at St Mary's Astbury, as accompanist. Fewer people attended a week later but enough for a decent choir. My husband Harold became Vice President, a role I took over in later years.

Our second concert, Haydn's *Creation* in the Town Hall in 1972, was a huge success, with some well-known people taking part, and subsequently there were more successes. Unfortunately our conductor became ill and the choir went through the doldrums a bit, with three conductors in as many years. Salvation appeared in the form of David Johnson and there is no doubt he transformed Congleton Choral Society.

We had many happy years singing, with Ann as accompanist, especially with the junior singers. I was completely dedicated to the concerts, as were other members, going so far as to sneak out of a wedding reception to go home, put on my choir uniform, perform in the concert then go back to the wedding! My long-suffering husband supported me in all my efforts and actually constructed and donated the timber staging for concerts.

I still attend all the concerts and am proud to see the choir go from strength to strength. Congleton should be very proud of CCS.



Claudette Tilley, who has been a member of CCS almost since its inception, records some memories for us. She was a soprano and is now an alto.



I joined the society in my early twenties just before Ray Woodfine resigned and David Johnson took up the baton.

Our ladies' uniforms were green pinafore dresses with a cream blouse sprigged with little green flowers. No auditions were required and we met in the gymnasium of what was then Danesford Boys' School and is now New Life Church.

The first concert I remember performing in was Handel's *Acis & Galatea*.....not the easiest to sing or indeed to listen to!

My memorable moments...

Taking part in the opening of Daneside Theatre, when all local societies were invited to do a slot or two during the evening performances which ran all week. Our signature tune became 'Down by the Riverside'.

One Christmas at the Daneside Theatre when we were performing Charpentier's *Messe de Minuit*, I was on the front row taking part in a quartet. The roof started leaking and raindrops were literally falling on my head and onto the score!



A Night at the Opera was really good fun when we all dressed up, and likewise when we staged Gilbert and Sullivan's **Trial by Jury**, both held in the Town Hall.



Trial by Jury: the Plaintiff and her bridesmaids

Photographs above and left: Congleton Chronicle

Trial by Jury: the principals. Left to right:

Anthea Howell as the Plaintiff, John Higginson as the Defendant, John Bayley as the Judge and John Berry as the Learned Counsel





Photograph: Congleton Chronicle

Trial by Jury: some of the ladies and gentlemen of the chorus. Editor's note: The performance was greeted with enthusiastic cheers from a riotous Town Hall audience! A great time was had by all. This was a new venture for the choir, giving a staged theatrical performance rather than a formal concert; as well as acting, we had to learn all the words and music off by heart!

TSUNAMI RELIEF CONCERT



ASTBURY CHURCH

*Congleton Choral Society
Rode Hall Silver Band
Keith Hearnshaw – Organ
Andrew Donaldson – Piano
Stephanie Donaldson – Flute
James McVicar – Baritone*

SATURDAY 22ND JANUARY
7.30pm

One of the most emotional events we took part in was when David Johnson and others organised *The Tsunami Relief Concert* at St Mary's, Astbury, in aid of the catastrophic tsunami of 2004. The church was full to capacity and it all came together in a matter of two to three weeks.

It is a real honour and pleasure to be part of this wonderful choir which has brought me personally so much pleasure and long lasting friendships. Long may it continue.



David looks back at some highlights from this time

Turning my thoughts back to the beginning of my long relationship with CCS, I remember that having moved from London to Congleton in 1973, I became choir master of Astbury Church. The then organist at Astbury, Christopher ‘Gerry’ Williams, was also the secretary of Congleton Choral Society, and he asked me to take over the choir as MD. CCS had been through four conductors in as many years, and was in danger of folding unless someone else could be appointed to take over the reins. I finally agreed to step in ‘for a few months’ in 1975. That was the beginning of a long association, almost a love affair, that lasted 34 years.

During that time, from its beginnings as a choir of about thirty voices, performing to piano or organ accompaniment, the Choral Society grew and grew, performing most of the standard choral repertoire with orchestras and some eminent soloists. Looking back, I have so many happy memories of performances in our two main local venues, Astbury Church and Congleton Town Hall, that I can only list a few.

I remember particularly the choir’s performance in 1993 of Monteverdi’s *Vespers of 1610*. This was candle-lit, and magical in its staging, with soloists singing from all parts of the church, including the minstrels’ gallery. The choir’s president, Sir Bernard Lovell FRS, gave a pre-concert talk in Astbury village hall about the sky as it might have been in Monteverdi’s day. That talk alone was attended by more than 150 people. When they made their way back across the road to the church, they found that the number of people already queuing to get into the performance was such that the start had to be delayed by more than 30 minutes, so our wonderfully-named orchestra from London ‘His Majesty’s Sagbutts and Cornetts’ delighted the waiting audience with demonstrations of their ancient instruments, until 750 people in total were completely seated. It was a stunning performance and the applause at the end said it all.



Occasionally we had to contend with unscheduled sound effects. Performances at Astbury Church were sometimes enlivened by swooping pigeons and the farmyard noises-off of bellowing bulls and cackling geese! In 1991 we joined with St George’s Singers Poynton in a performance of *Elijah* at Congleton Leisure Centre. The main hall backed onto a number of squash courts, and ‘The Management’ there had said they couldn’t close this lucrative amenity whilst we rehearsed in the afternoon. About 10 minutes into the rehearsal, it was obvious that even the might of the 150 singers, plus the 30 players of the Northern Bach orchestra, couldn’t compete with the noisy racket of the adjoining squash courts, so an ‘ambassador’ from the choir was quickly dispatched to pay them off!



Above: circa 1983, the choir dressed warmly for a winter evening rehearsal at Astbury Church



Haydn's *Creation* in June 1978 comes to mind, with two performances, the first in Chester Cathedral and the second in Congleton Town Hall the following week. With a full orchestra and now a choir of 60, the work was conducted by Roger Fisher of Chester Cathedral. Worrying that Congleton Choral Society might not attract an audience to Chester's vast Cathedral, a number of us drove over to Chester the week before the concert and fly-posted the city with our concert posters. It had the desired effect, and the Cathedral was full, with standing ovations after the performance.



Above: David conducts the choir at the Town Hall
 Photograph: Congleton Chronicle



Above: and...smile! Posing for the Chronicle photographer

I also remember with pride our first performance of Mendelssohn's *Elijah* in 1981 at the Town Hall, in memory of our well-loved Treasurer Don Tait. We had as young soloists William Schimmell, Anne Dawson, and Yvonne Howard, all of whom went on to sing at the Royal Opera House and other international venues. At this concert, we also welcomed Sir Bernard Lovell to his first concert as our President - a relationship with CCS that lasted until his death in 2012.



Right: 1980, on stage at the Town Hall. Centre front: David with accompanist Jan Fox

Another memorable and unique Town Hall evening was in 2001, when we performed David Fanshawe's *African Sanctus*. This piece is a Latin Mass, juxtaposed with live recordings of traditional African music, collected by the composer on his travels. The audience that night were confronted with a varied array of African percussion instruments, guitars, and loudspeakers! The composer gave a pre-concert slide talk, operated the sound-mixing machines, and played some of the African instruments.



With the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester on our doorstep, we had some of its excellent students as our vocal soloists, many of whom have gone on to make names for themselves in the musical world, including Simon Keenleyside CBE, Susan Bullock CBE, Anne Dawson, Joan Rodgers CBE and Yvonne Howard. A trusting relationship with the staff of the BBC Young Musician of the Year team led their young winners to play at our concerts in Congleton. We were entranced in 2003 by thirteen year old violinist Jennifer Pike and again in 2006 by clarinetist Mark Simpson.



Congleton Singers outside Durham Cathedral

I was always delighted that so many people came with me as the Congleton Singers to sing the weekend Services in some of the country's most historic cathedrals, whilst their own cathedral choirs were away on holiday. We had to institute a rota system, as the cathedral choir stalls could only accommodate a maximum of 30 voices. Wonderful friendly weekends were spent in the cathedral cities of Chester, Wells, Gloucester, Worcester, Durham, Lichfield, Norwich, Lincoln, and Peterborough. I am still amazed at how beautifully everyone sang on the Sunday morning, even after late-night partying on Saturday! Everywhere we went, we were often told that we were the best visiting choir they had had.

The choir also enjoyed three overseas trips to Europe, bringing music and the name of Congleton to Bruges, Brussels, Mechelen, Bondues, Ghent, Diksmuide and De Panne. Especially moving was our last visit to Belgium and France in 2007, when we were privileged to provide the music for the Remembrance Service at the Menin Gate in Ypres. This World War 1 Memorial to over 55,000 British and Commonwealth soldiers lost on the field of battle, but with no known grave, has their names inscribed on its vast, white Portland-stone walls. What a moving moment to sing Psalm 121, as the wreaths were laid.



Ghent Cathedral 2003

During my 34 years as MD, I was always loyally supported by wonderful committees. Special thanks must go to Mary Murphy, who helped me with everything over three decades, from painting the cumbersome wooden advertising boards we used for each concert, to sorting out the young musicians we had to play in our orchestras. She also organised the cathedral weekends and overseas trips. Without her, so much of what we achieved would not have been possible. Thank you, Mary.

Finally I say a heartfelt 'Thanks' to all who have sung with me over these years - I have so greatly enjoyed making music with you all. I hope you have enjoyed it too; it has honestly been the privilege of my life.

I have been really pleased to see, from my current vantage-point on the Town Hall balcony at CCS concerts, the wonderful progress Christopher Cromar made with the choir in the last 10 years. I stand impressed, amazed and proud of how far Congleton Choral Society has come in the last 50 Years. Onwards and upwards, my friends.

David Johnson

A full list of works performed by CCS can be seen on our website www.congletonchoral society.org.uk

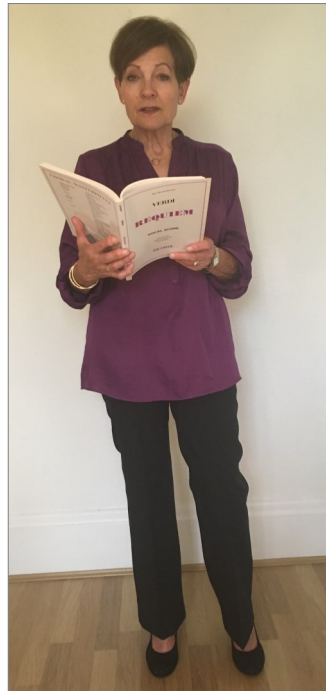




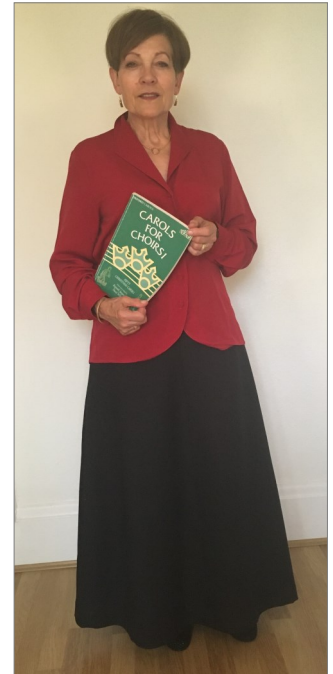
A backward glance at ladies' uniform through the decades



The present day purple blouse, designed and made for us by local couturier Silken Stories



Early 2000s: a deep amethyst blouse bought from a well-known chain store



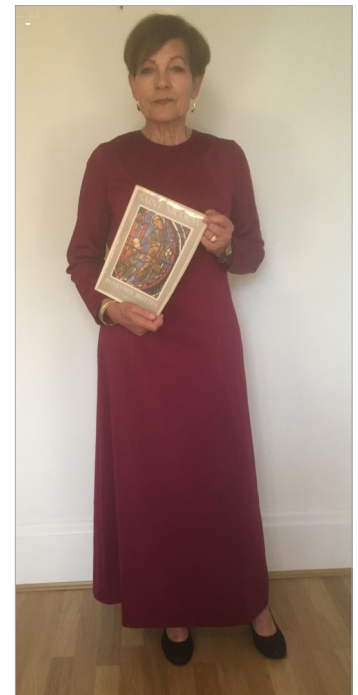
1990s: a red blouse with covered buttons and a tie at the back, designed and made for us by a sportswear manufacturer



1980s: a black skirt and waistcoat designed by a choir member and teamed with a turquoise blouse from a well-known chain store, finished with a black floppy bow at the neck



Late 1970s: a green serge pinafore dress worn over a sprigged cotton lawn blouse. Ladies made their own outfits from paper patterns provided



Early 1970s: the inaugural uniform, a long red dress




The 1980s: some snippets from Jill Milne's archives, before desktop publishing was invented, when posters and programmes were written and drawn by hand



This Evening, Saturday June 14th 1980, will be presented a Tragedy in One Act,

entitled **MARIA MARTEN,**
OR
MURDER IN THE RED BARN.



A social evening with a difference!

This was a very enjoyable in-house entertainment, devised by and for choir members and their friends. The melodramatic murder mystery of Maria Marten was performed on the stage of Astbury village hall as part of a Victorian music hall evening. Choir members also performed solo and group items. Much talent was on show! A traditional pie and peas supper was served. Costumes were devised by choir members and lent for the occasion by Congleton Players.

A unique Christmas concert

This seasonal entertainment took the form of a concert of traditional Christmas carols, which were linked through theme and mood by brief dramatized scenes, adapted from Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* by a member of the soprano section. The choir sat raised up on staging under the proscenium arch of the Town Hall. The drama was acted out on a fore-stage by choir members and several of their children. Dramatic stage lighting, costumes (borrowed from Congleton Players) and props enhanced the performance. The stark warnings to Scrooge of Marley's ghost, dragging his clanking chains across the stage, were followed by a blood-curdling *Chorus of Souls in Torment*, specially composed by a member of the tenor section. This frightening scene brought the first act to a close. The second act ended with the words of Tiny Tim: 'God bless us, every one!', followed by a rafter-raising performance from the choir of *We Wish You a Merry Christmas*.

CONGLETON CHORAL SOCIETY PRESENTS —

A VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS EVENING

A family entertainment with carols & a dramatisation of a famous Christmas ghost story by Charles Dickens —

AT CONGLETON TOWN HALL
ON SATURDAY 22ND DECEMBER AT 7.30 PM.

Admission: Adults: Stalls £3.00 — Balcony £2.00
Senior Citizens & Children: £1.50 —

Tickets obtainable from the Music Shop, Swan Bank & from the Information Centre at the Town Hall.

DRINKS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE BAR.



There will be a
HALLOWEEN PARTY
on Saturday 27 October
at Cloud House Farm, Cloudside, Congleton
from 8.00pm.

by kind invitation of Ruth & Alec Needham.

Price per person: £2
to include a glass
of witch's brew
& a spooky supper.

There will be a
prize for the most
outrageous attire.

Please bring a bottle
of your favourite poison.



RSVP on this slip to Alison Tottle.
I will be coming to the party.
I will / will not be bringing a partner.
Signed: _____

A spooky fundraising event...

It was a dark and stormy night when numerous witches, wizards, ghosts and vampires found their way through the winding lanes of Timbersbrook to an atmospheric old farmhouse on the side of the Cloud. Traditional Halloween games were played and delicious food, supplied by members, was consumed, along with bottles of various poisons....



2009 to 2011: Nick Concannon Hodges recalls his time as Music Director with CCS



Looking back after 10 years, my memories of working with CCS bring a big smile to my face. The recollections are a real mix: a wonderfully enthusiastic and supportive group of singers; Latin pronunciation; meetings in the pub after rehearsals; a lot of hard work; but above all, it was such a rewarding experience.

To sum up my time with CCS in single words, I would choose 'growth' and 'variety'. Knowledge, confidence and ability all grew, (that included me, just as much as the choir), and we performed music from early Advent carols and Passiontide hymns through to the Armed Man and the Beatles. We did a lot of work on warm-up exercises, both rhythmic and vocal, and on listening. There were small group sessions on pitch and theory. The choir broke into men and women for sectional rehearsals. It was wonderful to see singers challenge themselves and move forwards. It was a wonderfully rewarding and enjoyable time for me, and I hope that this was true for all the singers too.

Alongside performances of the more traditional large-scale works, I really enjoyed building programmes to include smaller works. This was originally considered as a way to manage the costs of performances, every group's continuous battle; the results achieved this and a whole lot more. It enabled the choir to learn a greater number of short songs, explore performing several different musical styles and enjoy a "lighter" side of singing. For the concert *A Love for All Seasons* we were able to mix songs with poems and instrumental performances and I was really pleased with the way this created a much less formal and more inclusive ambiance for the occasion.

Congleton Choral Society
President: Sir Bernard Lovell F.R.S.

Music Director - Nick Concannon Hodges



Brahms - German Requiem
sung in English
in Brahms' own piano arrangement for four hands


Bruckner - Locus Iste and Ave Maria
Selection of Lieder

Congleton Town Hall
Saturday 9th April 2011 at 7.30 pm

Detail from 'Brahms Begins the Day' by Oswald Barrett ('Batt')
reproduced by kind permission of Michael Abbott

Congleton Choral Society
President: Sir Bernard Lovell F.R.S.

Introducing our new Director of Music
Nick Concannon Hodges



A Love for all Seasons
a celebration in words and music

W. Terry Fox, Cheshire Poet Laureate, Reader

Lis Murphy Soprano
Stephanie Donaldson Flute
Simon Beesley Oboe
Andrew Donaldson Accompanist

Saturday 10th October 2009 at 7.30pm
Congleton Town Hall

Two concerts stand out in my memory. The first was the choir's performance of the *Brahms Requiem*. To perform this piece without the support of an orchestra, and to just use a piano, was a huge challenge. Not only is it a physically demanding work, it is also so deeply profound. I felt that the choir were successful on both accounts and I was proud of all that they achieved that night. I hope that they were too.

In complete contrast to the Brahms, the Passiontide service that we gave at St Stephen's Church, Congleton, was small and personal. I grew up singing weekly services from the age of 7 until I left home to study music in London; it was a huge part of my life. To be able to return to this music at the focal point of the Christian year was extremely special and a performance that I will always cherish.



The final bow: at our performance of Brahms' Requiem, Nick's farewell concert with us.

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to everyone who sang in the choir during my time with CCS. I cannot remember all your names, but I do remember the way people would come and talk with me, ask questions, share stories or anecdotes, tell a joke or two or just wave or smile on the way past. The time I worked with CCS was a wonderful journey and I am extremely glad to have been able to share it with you.

FAREWELL FROM CCS

(molto espressivo, con brio)

Nonchalantly knowledgeable
Inspiringly innovative
Charmingly challenging conductor.
Kindly critical

Helpfully humorous
Outstandingly patient, organisationally excellent
Deliciously dynamic
Gracefully generous
Ever exacting, eternally encouraging
So sorry you have to go.....

(dolce, sospirando, poco a poco a niente)

A farewell tribute to Nick, written by a member of the soprano section



The recent decade: Christopher Cromar MD, 2011-2021



It was clear from Christopher's audition in 2011 in front of the choir that he was a musician of considerable talent; in his time with us he took CCS from strength to strength. We have all benefited from the exciting and varied programme of music performed with an enthusiastic choir leader who has built our skills and our confidence. Stepping down from his role as MD in 2021, Chris wrote: 'I must tell you all just how much I have enjoyed my ten years with the choir. Every concert (and most rehearsals!) have been real musical highlights I shall cherish, and I have met many lovely, supportive people along the way. It has been a great pleasure to work with you and I wish CCS all the very best for the next 50 years!'

Christopher's first concert with CCS On Angel's Wing

Comments from the audience included:

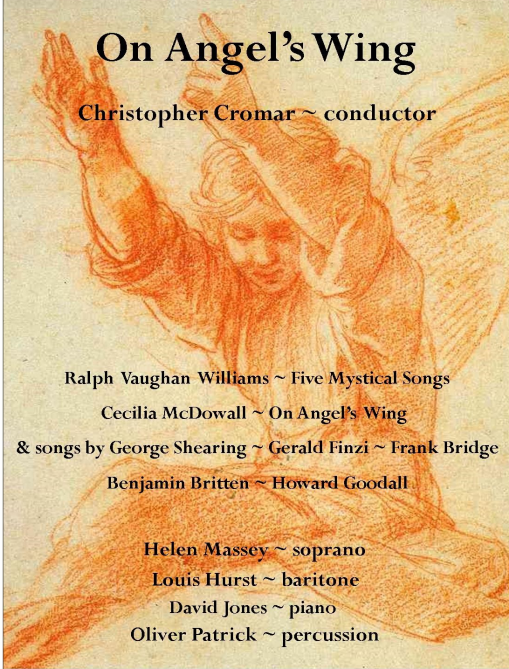
'I could have been in the Royal Albert Hall, I am in awe. I have heard many local choirs but this was just amazing'

'Wonderful singing, such quality'

'The rapport between the conductor and the choir was lovely to see - we couldn't see his expression but we saw the choir's joyful response and it really added to our enjoyment'

'I don't think I've ever heard you all sound better - hang on to this guy!'

'The choir hit a high standard from the beginning, and never faltered. The energy and attack demonstrated were most impressive. Much of the credit for this must go to your conductor, who I think was inspirational.'



Congleton Choral Society

On Angel's Wing

Christopher Cromar ~ conductor

Ralph Vaughan Williams ~ Five Mystical Songs
Cecilia McDowall ~ On Angel's Wing
& songs by George Shearing ~ Gerald Finzi ~ Frank Bridge
Benjamin Britten ~ Howard Goodall

Helen Massey ~ soprano
Louis Hurst ~ baritone
David Jones ~ piano
Oliver Patrick ~ percussion

Congleton Town Hall ~ Saturday 15th October 2011

'This choir is a jewel in Congleton's crown. The tone and articulation that they offer is exceptional.....'You will go a long way before you hear a choir so well balanced and with such an attractive sound.'

Review of the performance of Messiah in the Congleton Chronicle



Messiah

George Frideric Handel

Congleton Choral Society
Christopher Cromar ~ conductor

The Philharmonic Ensemble
Andrew Orton ~ leader

Congleton Town Hall

Saturday 12th November 2012 ~ 7.30pm

*We dedicate this concert to the memory
of our late president
Sir Bernard Lovell OBE FRS
with affection and gratitude*



'The solo mezzo-soprano part in Rutter's Feel the Spirit was written especially for Melanie Marshall (photo above).... Who sang the solo part for us last Saturday? None other than Melanie Marshall herself. What a joy! Her feeling for spirituals is really special....Christopher has done a superb job in making the Congleton Choral into such a fine choir. It was so evident that they enjoyed what they were doing immensely.'

Review by Gwen Jones in the Congleton Chronicle



'Road to Heaven'

Congleton Choral Society

John Rutter ~ Feel the Spirit
Melanie Marshall ~ mezzo soprano

Bob Chilcott ~ Requiem
Andrea Tweedale ~ mezzo soprano
Stuart Overington ~ baritone

Jeffrey Makinson ~ organ and piano
Christopher Cromar ~ conductor

St Peter's Church, Congleton
Saturday 13th July 2013 - 7:30pm

Tickets - £12 full - £10 concessions - £2 under 16s
From Ticket Secretary 01260 276957 or TIC 01260 271095
or online at www.congletonchoralsociety.org.uk

President: Margaret Williamson MBE DL
Reg. Charity No. 515851



Our concert *Lest We Forget* commemorated the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War. Members of the audience commented:

'The programme began with a verse of Laurence Binyon's poem For the Fallen, set for unaccompanied chorus by Douglas Guest. 'They shall grow not old As we that are left grow old'; this was an apt choice to set the mood.'

'The poem at the start - you really nailed it, stunning, and the Duruflé Requiem was amazing.'

'The Duruflé is in parts difficult for the listener and for the singer; it was performed extremely well, with great sensitivity. The Haydn Nelson Mass was so uplifting and a joy to listen to. Well done, you must be shattered!'



Lest We Forget
 1914 ~ 1918
 Douglas Guest ~ For the Fallen
 Maurice Duruflé ~ Requiem
 Joseph Haydn ~ Nelson Mass
Congleton Choral Society
 Christopher Cromar ~ conductor
 Elin Rees ~ organ
Congleton Town Hall
 Saturday 22nd November 2014 ~ 7.30pm

Congleton Choral Society
Fascinating Rhythm
 ~ An Evening of Americana ~
 Emily Dankworth ~ vocalist
 Dominic John ~ piano
 Christopher Cromar ~ conductor
Congleton Town Hall
Saturday 19th July 2014
 President Margaret Williamson MBE DL
 Registered charity no: 515851

From a review of *Fascinating Rhythm* in the Congleton Chronicle :

'Congleton Choral Society invited two musical stars to take part in the summer concert Fascinating Rhythm: singer Emily Dankworth and pianist Dominic John. The audience thoroughly enjoyed their contribution to a varied programme of light music and jazz. Christopher Cromar has used his considerable talents as a choral conductor to develop the repertoire and quality of singing in the Choral Society. He is also an accomplished concert pianist, and he joined Dominic John in Gershwin's Cuban Overture, full of Caribbean rhythms and traditional tunes.... A member of the audience said 'It was nice to see the choir so relaxed!'

Of Love and Music

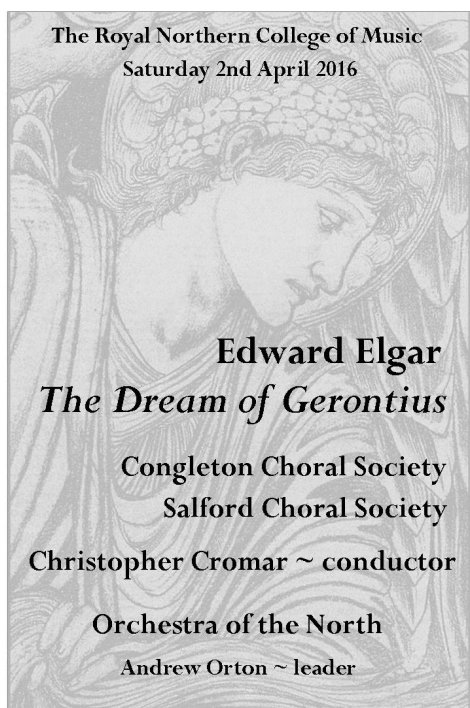
'On Angel's Wing by Cecilia McDowall; the atmosphere was enhanced through very careful dynamics and beautifully sensitive percussion, at times literally ringing in our ears. The choir's response to the conductor was very confident....The Children's Choir gave an outstanding performance of Captain Noah and his Floating Zoo...In Carmina Burana, Christopher Cromar and the whole ensemble, including Nicholas Sales as the Roasted Swan, raised the standard of this performance of the work to the best I have heard and seen anywhere, sentiments echoed by others near to me. Comments included 'what a fabulous concert! CCS goes from strength to strength', '...loved the joy and enthusiasm of the children as they performed', 'Carmina Burana - absolutely fabulous'. At the end, the whole audience was brought to its feet giving tumultuous applause, and rightly so. It was tremendous.'

From a review in the Congleton Chronicle

Of Love and Music
 In memory of our late President
 Margaret Williamson MBE DL
 Carl Orff ~ Carmina Burana
 Cecilia McDowall ~ On Angel's Wing
 Joseph Horowitz ~ Captain Noah
 and his Floating Zoo
Congleton Choral Society
 Christopher Cromar ~ conductor
 with Congleton Children's Choir
 Saturday 18th July 2015
 Congleton Town Hall



The Royal Northern College of Music
Saturday 2nd April 2016



Edward Elgar
The Dream of Gerontius

Congleton Choral Society
Salford Choral Society
Christopher Cromar ~ conductor

Orchestra of the North
Andrew Orton ~ leader

'This performance of The Dream of Gerontius could only be described as amateur in the sense that the chorus was unpaid. I doubt that there would have been many present who would not have been deeply impressed by the professionalism with which the event was marked...Diction was remarkably clear, intonation reliable and tone quality very focused. Ensemble was excellent, and phrasing was clear and purposeful. What was really impressive, however, was the sheer involvement and responsiveness. The Demons' Chorus had plenty of fire and venom, bringing to mind Barbirolli's characteristic reminder to the gentlemen of the chorus during a Sheffield rehearsal - 'You're not bank clerks on a Sunday outing, you're souls sizzling in hell!' All in all this was a performance that stood on its own merits, not demanding comparison with Boult, Barbirolli or anyone else! Who was it who once described England as 'the land without music'?!!

From a review of *The Dream of Gerontius* by Kelvin Leslie

From a review of the *St John Passion* in the Congleton Chronicle:

'From the very beginning of the performance there was a special sense of atmosphere, matching the events of the gospel story as we journeyed through it. At this time of year one might read the story but listening and watching singers, soloists and orchestra become part of it raised the whole experience to a new level. Such an experience was completely new to me during a performance of this mighty work: the tense silence created by conductor, soloists, orchestra and singers embraced us all. The composer spoke to us then, and now leaves us to wait for Easter.'

J S Bach ~ St John Passion



The Taking of Christ - Caravaggio, 1602

♪ Congleton Choral Society ♪

with Northern Baroque Sinfonia

Amanda Babington ~ leader

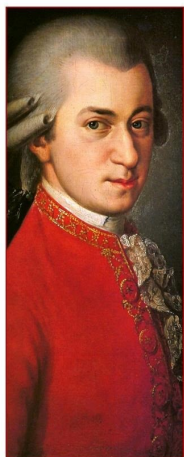
Christopher Cromar ~ conductor

Congleton Town Hall

Saturday 1st April 2017

CONGLETON CHORAL SOCIETY

Magnificent Mozart



*Great Mass
in C Minor*

*& Vesperae
Solennes*

Christopher Cromar
conductor

The Philharmonic
Ensemble

Richard Howarth ~ leader

Congleton Town Hall
Saturday 6th April 2019



Comments from the audience about *Magnificent Mozart*:
'Heartfelt thanks to Christopher Cromar and the choir for a truly magnificent evening of music. How lucky we are to have such a performance taking place in our own town.'

'The 'Not-So-Solemn' Vespers bounced along with joy. The choir was in excellent form, and the soloists, especially the two coloratura sopranos in the Great Mass, were superb.'

And from the soprano soloists:

'Such a pleasure to join you all on Saturday. Congratulations on a brilliant concert!' 'It would be wonderful to sing with you all again. I thought the choir was superb.'



In 2014 MD Christopher Cromar had the idea of starting up Congleton Choral Academy, a non-auditioned choir to cater for people with an interest in starting to sing, developing their skills or returning to singing after a break.

The first Academy session was in November 2014. From the start Chris provided a very varied repertoire. The choir marched to WW1 favourites, Wished They Were In Love Again (from the Great American Songbook), sang Native American chants in multiple parts and wassailed their way towards Christmas. These rehearsals were always light-hearted and fun.

Membership settled to around 30 and the Academy's first public performance took place on Friday 20th March 2015 at Congleton United Reformed Church. It attracted a good audience and was well received. Entry was free and costs were covered with funds from a raffle and sales of tea and cakes provided by the Academy's accomplished bakers. This proved to be a successful formula and set the pattern for future Academy concerts.

The first experience of singing in the Town Hall was Christmas 2015 when the Academy choir joined CCS in the Christmas Concert. This was the first of five Christmas celebrations in which the Academy has taken part, joining CCS in singing the carols and having a special slot in the programme to perform a few pieces alone.



Rehearsing with the Choral Society and the Children's Choir, Christmas 2015

My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen!



A LIGHT-HEARTED CURTAIN-RAISER

Vocal Gems from the Golden Age of Music Hall and Other Victorian Delights

Congleton Town Hall
Saturday 23rd July 2016 at 6.30pm

FREE to Grand Anniversary Concert Ticket Holders
Booking details at congletonchoralsociety.org.uk
Or £5 at the Door for Curtain-Raiser Only

In July 2016 a Grand Anniversary Concert celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Town Hall gave Academy members the opportunity to dress up as Victorians and present a short curtain-raiser of vocal gems from the golden age of music hall and other Victorian delights. According to a review at the time 'The Academy singers clearly enjoyed themselves from the outset and their energy and enthusiasm grew as the singing continued. During the various drinking songs they joyously waved tankards whilst singing with great enthusiasm'.

A new performance opportunity occurred when the Academy was invited to take part in the *Congleton Unplugged* festival in early March 2020. Cross Street Church was a new venue for the festival and for the singers, who obviously enjoyed performing to a more diverse audience than usual in the bright environment and acoustic of the church.

Performing at the *Congleton Unplugged* festival



Several members, having developed their confidence in the Academy, have gone on to swell the ranks of CCS. The Academy has benefited CCS in a number of ways, as well as giving a great musical experience to CCA members themselves. It has helped to raise the reputation of the Choral Society, spread interest through the community and has increased the audience for CCS concerts.

Some comments from CCA members: 'I'm absolutely loving this choir! I haven't sung in a choir since school days and it's fantastic to be reacquainted with that sense of exhilaration'.....'Our Academy sessions are super. They give us the opportunity to sing a varied repertoire in good company and good spirit'.....'The Academy has had an immensely positive impact on my life.'



Congleton Children's Choir: introducing the younger generation to the joys of singing in a choir

From its beginning in 2014, Congleton Children's Choir grew musically from strength to strength under Christopher Cromar's dynamic direction. The choristers gave performances on stage at the Town Hall, at Clonter Opera Theatre and at Daneside Theatre.



Congleton Children's Choir

Spring Concert

Friday 4th April 2014 from 6.00 to 6.30pm
at the United Reformed Church
Antrobus Street, Congleton

Christopher Cromar - conductor

Dominic John -piano

In their first concert in April 2014 the young choristers sang *Farewell to the Admirable Queen, Kateryn Parr*, words and music by Alan Simmons; *Three Native American Chants* (traditional, arr. Cromar); brought *Good News* with a traditional spiritual and bid *Good Night* with a Russian song. Guest soloist Dominic John accompanied.

In July 2014 the programme began with Andrew Carter's *Bless the Lord: Badgers and Hedgehogs*; then came Samuel Wesley's *Lead me Lord*, Martin Dalby's *There was a King*, and finally a reprise of the popular *Three Native American Chants* (arr Cromar). The accompanist was Andrew Green.



Congleton Children's Choir

**~ Kings and Queens ~
Regal and Heavenly!**

Friday 18th July 2014
at the United Reformed Church
Antrobus Street, Congleton

Christopher Cromar ~ conductor
Andrew Green ~ piano

To promote the emotional and social value of singing, in April 2015 Chris Cromar led a workshop for local children at the Town Hall. Schools were invited to bring students aged 7 upwards to join the Children's Choir in a morning of 'enjoyable and educational music-making.'

In July 2015 CCS gave a concert entitled *Of Love and Music* at the Town Hall in memory of our late President Margaret Williamson, who was an enthusiastic supporter of the Children's Choir. It was particularly fitting that the young choristers took part in the concert. Members of the audience said 'The Children's Choir gave an outstanding performance of *Captain Noah and his Floating Zoo*'Loved the joy and enthusiasm of the children.'

Of Love and Music

Carl Orff - Carmina Burana
Cecilia Mc Dowall - On Angel's Wing
Joseph Horovitz - Captain Noah and his Floating Zoo
with Congleton Children's Choir



Christopher Cromar - conductor

Congleton Town Hall
Saturday 18th July 2015 at 7.30pm

Margaret Williamson was a tremendous force in helping to source funding from the local community to support the Children's Choir. Sponsorship was generously given by Congleton Inclosure Trust, Congleton Harriers, Congleton Town Council, The Congleton Town Trust, Congleton Young People's Trust Ltd, Congleton Carnival, Stephen Sebire MBE and Morrisons (Congleton). In her memory, the Choral Society has set up the Margaret Williamson annual bursary award for promising music students at Congleton High School and Eaton Bank Academy.



Outreach beyond our local community

In May 2016 CCS hosted a visit from the Harvestehude Symphony Orchestra, based in Hamburg, at Congleton Town Hall (photo left). As well as giving a memorable performance of Brahms, Dvorak and Handel in an evening concert, the orchestra, conductor Haresh Shankar, gave a music workshop for local school children, who were given the opportunity to handle and try out various instruments. Great fun was had by all!



Singing Days with Congleton Choral Society



COME AND SING WITH CHRISTOPHER CROMAR

Beethoven ~ Missa Solemnis



Saturday 6th October 2018
10.00am to 4.30pm
£15 adults - £5 students

St Michael and All Angels Church, Macclesfield SK10 1DY
Full details at www.congletonchoralsociety.org.uk

'Come and Sing' days are now as much part of the musical year as all the rehearsals and concerts. Choirs love them! They also form a valuable addition to all choirs' fund-raising efforts and CCS's home-made cakes seem especially sought after! (See right...)



Our first ever Singing Day was in 2007 with the world-renowned composer John Rutter, famous as a choral director, whose many Christmas carols have delighted audiences world-wide. David Johnson secured John's presence for the day at St Michael's Church in Macclesfield, which was packed with over four hundred choristers from far and wide. There was no problem that day securing enough tenors and basses!



John Rutter (left) conducts at the CCS singing day in 2007

The church elders at St Michael's said that the building had never resonated before with such a sound as four hundred voices singing in harmony and fortissimo. These were sounds to remember. It was also certainly a day to remember.

This success paved the way for further 'Come and Sing' days, a formula which has gained in popularity as a chance to sing a new piece or reprise a piece already sung. Bob Chilcott (right) has become a real favourite as MD, both for his musicality and his reassuring way of directing the singers in his own compositions. It is a fantastic way to rehearse a piece of music to be later performed.



Photograph by John Bellars



Bob Chilcott conducts *Five Days That Changed the World* at the Church of St Michael and all Angels, Macclesfield

We were one of the first choirs in the country to perform Chilcott's *Five Days that Changed the World* as a result of singing it with the man himself in 2017. Similarly we were one of the first choirs to perform his *Christmas Oratorio* after a choral workshop with Bob in 2019. We have now had four Singing Days with Bob and look forward to more in the future



A happy collaboration : Chris Cromar was accompanist for the day



We sang Haydn with Paul Spicer and Bach with David Hill, who were the 'MDs for the day' in 2009 and 2016 respectively

Singing Day with David Hill
 Music Director ~ Bach Choir & Principal Conductor ~ BBC Singers
Extracts from Bach's Mass in B Minor 
 Saturday 8th October 2016
 St Michael and All Angels Church, Macclesfield SK10 1DY
 Full details at www.congletonchoralsociety.org.uk

Singing Days with our MD Christopher Cromar

Congleton Choral Society presents
In At The Deep End
 a choral workshop for tenor baritone and bass voices
 led by
Christopher Cromar



Spend a day exploring techniques to help your singing, and experience the richness of the repertoire for lower voices. Music will range from the classical to the catchy, and harmonious fun is guaranteed!
 Saturday 18th May 2013, 10.00 to 16.30
 Congleton United Reformed Church
 Antrobus Street, CW12 1HE

Christopher led regular 'Come and Sing' days, exploring a varied repertoire of songs and selections from large works.

Most choirs have the problem of fewer men than women members, and Chris attempted to rectify this age-old dilemma in 2013 with his workshop for tenors and basses 'In at the Deep End'. Female tenors were also welcomed!

Music ranged from the classical to the catchy, and the whole day was, as promised, great fun.



In at the Deep End, 2013

A tempting menu of hot food was served at the lunchtime interval, with the famous CCS home-made cakes at tea and coffee breaks. The general feeling about the whole experience was summed up by one participant in these words: **'In at the Deep End: Marvellous!'**

Singing Day with Christopher Cromar
Celebrating John Rutter at Seventy
 Music will include extracts from his *Gloria*,
This is the day & What sweeter music can we bring?




Congleton United Reformed Church ~ Saturday 17th October 2015
www.congletonchoralsociety.org.uk

In 2015 we celebrated John Rutter's 70th birthday

Singing Day with Christopher Cromar
 Selections from
The Armed Man ~ Karl Jenkins 
 Saturday 29th April 2017
 Congleton United Reformed Church, Antrobus St, CW12 1HE
 Full details at www.congletonchoralsociety.org.uk

In 2017 it was the turn of Karl Jenkins' much-loved *Armed Man*, which we then performed in concert at Congleton Town Hall in 2018

COME AND SING WITH CHRISTOPHER CROMAR



Saturday 21st April 2018
 2.00 to 5.30pm
 £10 adults
 £5 students & CCS members

Congleton United Reformed Church, Antrobus St, CW12 1HE
 Full details at www.congletonchoralsociety.org.uk

In 2018 we explored Howard Goodall's *Eternal Light*



A typical CCS singing day scene at Congleton United Reformed Church



Having fun with fundraising over the last ten years



Our Choral Society, in common with the majority of other creators of live music, needs to raise funds. CCS has always prided itself on having professional soloists and orchestras, which come at a price. Were we to fill each of the three hundred seats in the Town Hall, we still could not meet our costs as we aim to bring memorable music to Congleton at affordable prices.

CCS has often been asked to sing at weddings and funerals, so the *Choir for Hire* was formed by a group of choir members. One of the perks of weddings is to see the bride's dress at close quarters, since the choir sits facing the happy couple, and there are often spectacular hats!



It has been the privilege of Congleton Singers to sing at the end of a loved one's life, including at the funerals of choir members, which has been particularly fitting. We have also sung at Christmas 'do's' and carolled in the town centre, at the golf club, and at Quarry Bank Mill.

In 2012 a dedicated fund-raising committee was established, as it became clear that all aspects of putting on a concert were becoming more expensive and we wanted to maintain our high standards. There have been coffee mornings at the library where the public queued for bric-a-brac, raffle tickets and tea with our famous home-made cakes. Regulars at these Library events used to look out for our advertisements, we were told.

Right: we had a stall at the Carnival in Congleton Park on several broiling hot summer Saturdays – and also some cold windy ones!



Above: a Garden Party was held on a glorious June day; cream teas attract humans as well as wasps!



Right: bringing in the haggis at a Burns Night supper



Left: a Mad Hatter's Tea Party with a prize for the best hat!



There were memorable events at which our MD Chris Cromar and his friends lent their musical talents.

Two Pianists, Picnic and Pudding

In July 2012 Chris teamed up with Elin Rees, a guest organist at many of our concerts, to perform a delightful recital of piano duets for our entertainment. On the musical menu were Arthur Benjamin's *Jamaica Rumba*, Mozart's *Eine Kleine Nachtmusik*, Mendelssohn's *Hebrides Overture*, Brahms' *Three Hungarian Dances* and the third movement (*Très Vite!*) of Poulenc's *Sonata*.



Four Hands, One Piano

One Sunday in July 2017, our guest soloist Dominic John and Chris Cromar met at the keyboard to perform an afternoon piano recital at St Peter's Church. There were some dramatic musical fireworks from this dynamic duo, performing a programme which included Liszt's exciting *Hungarian Rhapsody no. 2*. Cream teas were served after the recital to round off the day.

A local author gave us the use of one of her murder mystery plays, appropriately named *The Semitones*, which we acted out to the accompaniment of supper and a 'pudd' – delicious. We look forward to the next grisly performance!

Visit six gardens for a fiver!

~ teas & homemade cakes ~
 ~ a glass of Prosecco ~
 ~ crafts for sale ~
 ~ book stall ~

In aid of Choral Society funds

The latest venture was a very successful Garden Trail, when five keen gardeners opened up to the public gaze. The weather was mostly kind and so many people said how much they enjoyed coming across old friends who were coincidentally visiting at the same time. Cake played an important part, once more. The pandemic put paid to the repeat event planned in 2020 so fingers crossed for 2022.

Clearly there is much more to a successful Choral Society than singing! Grateful thanks are due to all members of the hard-working fundraising committee, and to choir members who continue to host events, provide raffle prizes, bake cakes, and man stalls, all in an effort to reach our annual target of at least £3,000. New ideas and suggestions for events are always welcome!



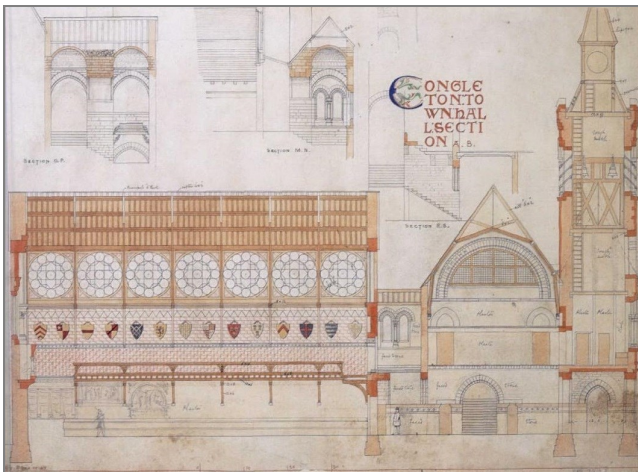
A brief history of our concert venues



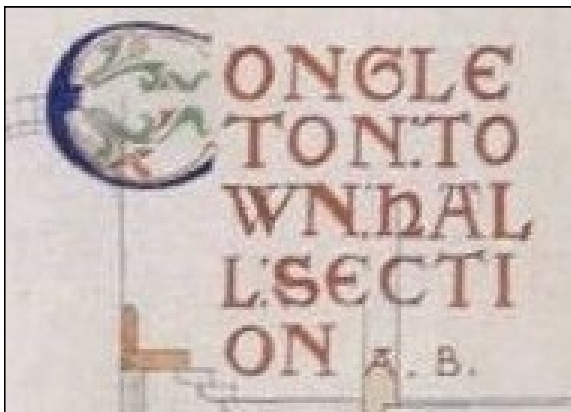
Congleton Town Hall has been the Choral Society's main venue in the town ever since the choir began. It is an impressive and atmospheric space, designed to create a sense of occasion for visitors.

In 2016 our Grand Anniversary Concert celebrated the 150th anniversary of the opening of the Town Hall.

Congleton Town Hall opened in 1816. It was designed in the fashionable Gothic style of mid-Victorian Britain by Edward William Godwin (1833-1886), a charismatic and influential figure in English architecture and design. His design was selected as the winning entry in an architectural competition held by the town council; it was built to a budget of £5,400 (about £450,000 in today's money) which the architect observed was 'a very small business'!



E W Godwin's architectural drawings



Ready for the performance

Grand Anniversary Concert



Celebrating 150 years of Congleton Town Hall

Charles Wood ~ Hail Gladdening Light
Sir John Stainer ~ The Daughter of Jairus
John Henry Maunder ~ Song of Thanksgiving
Sir Hubert Parry ~ I Was Glad

 *Congleton Choral Society*
 Christopher Cromar ~ conductor
 Michael Wynne ~ organist

Congleton Town Hall
Saturday 23rd July 2016



The new building, with its dramatic two-storey main hall featuring exposed hammer beams and a stone minstrels' gallery, was intended to impress the public and to reflect Congleton's civic status. A major refurbishment programme in 1996, costing £975,000, saw the interior restored to its original design, revealing in the main hall the magnificent ceiling, the stone minstrels' gallery and the large windows which had been hidden for many years.



Our mission is always to provide high-quality music at the heart of the community; we hope to continue to delight our audiences in the Town Hall for the next 150 years - and beyond!



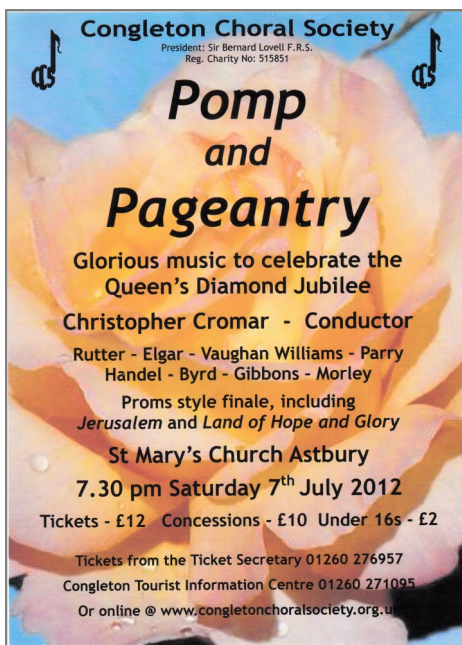
Astbury Church



The imposing medieval Church of St Mary at Astbury dates back in parts to 1093. Its soaring nave and 15th century rood screen create a magnificent and atmospheric setting for concerts.

Right: the choir assembled on the steps of Astbury Church before our concert *Pomp and Pageantry*, celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in July 2012. The programme of English music included works by Rutter, Elgar, Vaughan Williams, Handel, Byrd and Gibbons. Christopher Cromar swapped his baton for a flag to conduct the Proms-style finale, when choir and audience joined forces to sing *Jerusalem* and *Land of Hope and Glory*.

Photograph: Congleton Chronicle



Performing *Pomp and Pageantry* to a packed church

St Peter's Church, Swettenham village

For many years the choir sang Advent carol services at St Peter's Church, Swettenham, where our late President Sir Bernard Lovell was organist. The church is a beautiful listed building, built circa 1717 on a medieval site; it created a perfectly peaceful and intimate setting for the celebration of Advent, which was always a favourite occasion for the choir.





St Peter's Church in Chapel Street, Congleton has been an occasional venue for Choral Society concerts. The building was completed in 1742 and is a superb example of Georgian church architecture.



The interior of St Peter's Church, Chapel Street.
Photograph copyright Angie Hornak for Pevsner.

CONGLETON CHORAL SOCIETY
Conductor David Johnson

**AUTUMN
CONCERT**

BERNSTEIN - CHICHESTER PSALMS
BRITTEN - SAINT NICOLAS

Saturday 24th. October 1987 at 7.30pm.
St. Peter's Church, Congleton

NORTHERN BACH ORCHESTRA
Leader - Nigel Jay

KNUTSFORD YOUTH SINGERS
Conductor - Joan Dean

DAVID JOHNSTON - TENOR
ALAN DEAN - HAVILLAND WILLSHIRE - PIANO

Tickets - £2.50 Adults - £2.00 Concessions - from
the Information Centre & the Music Shop, Swan Bank



In October 1987 the Choral Society presented an ambitious programme of contemporary music by Britten and Bernstein, accompanied by the Northern Bach Orchestra.

At the **Royal Northern College of Music** in April 2016 we joined with Salford Choral Society to perform Elgar's *Dream of Gerontius*, conducted by Christopher Cromar. This was an unforgettable occasion for the choir.



Over the years there have been enjoyable collaborations with other choirs in unfamiliar venues. In 1998, David Johnson took us on a journey to **Boston Stump**, Lincolnshire, where we joined with the Boston Choral Society in a performance of Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms* and Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana*. The Boston choir then visited us for a repeat performance at Congleton Town Hall.

Local collaborations also occurred. The whole choir joined with the Macclesfield Oriana Choir at **Macclesfield Leisure Centre** to perform Verdi's *Requiem*. On another occasion, Choral Society members were invited to join the Ceramic City Choir to sing *Elijah* at the **Victoria Hall, Hanley**. It was an awesome experience to be part of this huge number of singers in the impressive surroundings of the hall.

🎵 **Roll call of all CCS members from the foundation of the choir to the present day** 🎵

Barbara Acock	Steve Broadfoot	Bet Evans	John Hibbert	David Messham	Iris Richards	Annette Thomson
Derek Acock	Russ Bromley	Cathy Evans	John Higginson	Margaret Metcalfe	Kate Richards	David Thomson
Graham Acton	Ruth Bromley	Debbie Farr	Aileen Higgs	Andrea Micklewright	Deborah Roberts	Gill Thorndyke
Eric Adshead	Janet Brookes	Rebecca Farrar	Jean Holdcroft	Caroline Midmore	Elaine Roberts	Carol Thorpe
Margaret Adshead	Nicola Brooks	Mike Field	Stephen Holmes	Nick Midmore	Holly Roberts	Bartown Thwaites
Sylvia Aldworth	Pete Brosnan	Sue Fielding	Anthea Howell	John Miller	Pam Roberts	Claudette Tilley
Moira Allison	Helen Brough	Muriel Fildes	Susan Howell	Rosemary Millican	Cathy Robinson	John Tillotson
Tom Almond	David Browcott	George Fisher	Rachel Hulse	Lesley Mills	John Robinson	Brenda Toop
Anne Anderson	Dianne Brown	Twm Flint	Bill Inge	Nicky Mills	Charlotte Rous	Alison Tottle
Geoff Argent	Nigel Buckley	Mark Flynn	Bill Jackson	Jill Milne	Anne Rutherford	Andrew Trend
Yvonne Argent	Charles Burch	Gerald Foster-Clark	June Jackson	Ron Milne	Laird Ryan	Ian Tucker
Lorraine Arnold	Brian Burgess	Alf Frost	Norman Jackson	Jill Molloy	Annabelle Ryder	Julia Tunley
Brian Ashby	Christina Burgess	John Fryer	Sue James	Cynthia Moore	Eileen Sargeant	Janine Turner
Fiona Aslaksen	Roger Burgess	Barbara Fryer	Paterson Jenny	Suzan Moore	Sue Sebire	Ken Turner
David Aston	Claire Butler	Rowena Fryer	Rajan Jesudason	Ben Moores	Marquette Sexton	Edwin Tweed
Kat Bailey	Susan Butler	Chris Garbutt	Elaine Jewkes	Philip Morgan	Roland Seymour	Pam Upchurch
Mike Bailey	Valerie Butler	Lesley Gare	Mavis John	Liz Morris	Jane Sharman	Brenda Vann-Murphy
Sylvia Bailey	David Campbell	Margaret Gartside	Caroline Johnson	Hilary Moss	Naomi Sharman	Lyndsey Vincent
Christine Baillot	Brian Caswell	John Gibson	Judy Johnson	Liz Mowll	Nick Sharman	Julie Walker
Ann Baker	Jill Chaddock	Geoff Gill	Wanda Johnson	Brenda Murphy	Elaine Sharples	Carolyn Waller
Lesley Baker	Anwen Chadwick	June Gilson	Dorothy Jones	Liam Murphy	Jeff Sharples	Jo Walters
Alison Bambrough	Neil Chadwick	Rozanne Gimson	Katherine Jones	Mary Murphy	Elaine Shaw	Rena Ward
Peter Barnes	Sarah Chadwick	Susan Gomme	Shirley Jones	Jean Muston	Beryl Sheard	Sue Ward
Brian Barnett	Carolyn Chambers	Marcia Gooder	Valerie Jones	Mike Muston	Ann Sheehy	Janet Warren
Helen Barnett	Barrie Cheshire	Ann Goodwin	Wif Kennerley	Bob Mynett	Annette Shipley	Eunice Waters
Jane Barratt	Doreen Cliff	Philippa Gordon	Michael Kershaw	Kristina Naidoo	Anne Shribman	John Webb
Laura Barrowclough	Doreen Clowes	Denise Gore	Chris Kinsey	Alec Needham	Susan Sills	Daniela Weber
Vivienne Barry	Sue Coffey	Diana Gourmand	Pam Kirkland	Margaret Needham	Paul Simms	Michael Wenzinger
Irene Bartley	Liz Conlin	Michael Gover	Sylvia Kirton	Ruth Needham	Jane Sinnott	Glenys Weston
Tony Bartley	Suzanne Connibere	Richard Gowing	Samantha Lea	Angie Newton	Dorothy Skelley	Helen Wharton
Heather Bayley	Jean Connolly	Brenda Graham	Sue Leach	Pat Nicklin	Alexandra Smith	Andrew Wheeler
John Bayley	Jake Convery	Jennifer Graham	Bernard Leese	Emma Nightingale	Andrew Smith	Barbara Whitehead
David Bell	Ann Convoy	Jenny Grayburn	Bethan Leyshon	Marie Norbury	Angela Speedy	Hilda Whitehurst
Alice Bender	Sue Cooke	Nick Green	Elisabeth Leyshon	Jackie Nunnerly	Keith Spencer	Caroline Whiting
Roland Bender	Judith Coyne	John Gregson	Catherine Lilley	Samantha Oates	Pam Spencer	Sheila Whittle
Pat Bennett	June Craker	Margeret Grieveson	Anne Livesey	Ann Ogle	Vernon Spicer	Ellis Wiggins
Malcolm Bennison	Andrew Cresswell	Doreen Griffiths	Kathryn Livsey	Mair Oliver	Margaret Sproston	Sarah Wilkes
Kath Berresford	Karen Crook	Veronica Grundy	Rob Livsey	Janet Ollier	Walter Stead	Lesley Wilkie
Gill Berry	Doug Crowley	Harry Hancock	Nerys Lock	Monica Ovel	Roger Steer	Kat Wilkins
John Berry	Tony Cryne	Clare Hale	Anne Lowe	Sian Owen	Rosemary Stephenson	Adele Williams
Ruth Bessant	Grace Dalby	Judith Hall	Clare Lowe	Pat Pace	Gerald Stevens	Gill Williams
Janet Binns	Kathryn Deane	Patricia Hall	Christine Malkin	Lynda Palazzo	Lorna Stirling	Margaret Williams
Miriam Birch	Susan Dewick	Robert Hall	Hugh Malkin	Jennie Parkman	Sandy Sykes	Mike Williams
Nigel Bird	Philip Dixon	William Hall	Catherine Marsden	Mary Parry	Don Tait	Roger Williams
Lynne Bjorkstrand	Brian Dobson	Alison Hargeaves	Geoff Mather	Jenny Paterson	Edna Tait	Val Williams
Liz Bolding	Sally Drage	Helen Harrison	Maud Matthews	Margaret Patrick	Rosemary Tatton	Peter Willis
Ruth Bones	John Draper	Sylvia Harrison	Val McDermid	Sandra Pearce	Jack Taverner	Sue Willis
Ellen Bonnell	Pauline Drew	Claire Hatton	Kath McEnnery	Tim Pemberton	Christine Taylor	Janet Winrow
Catherine Booth	Rachel Duerden	Kate Hawkhead	Kerry McEnnery	Sue Peterson	David Taylor	Gill Winter
Judith Boyd	Quentin Duerden	Ruth Hayman	Jill McGavock	Ian Pickford	May Taylor	Ann Wood
Sandie Boynton	Elsie Durrant	Rosemary Heath	Margaret McKeivitt	Patti Pinto	Moira Taylor	Morag Woodward
David Bradford	Pam Eaton	Norah Hemsley	Don McLeod	Doris Power	Charlotte Taylor-Cox	Angela Worswick
Elma Bradley	Christine Edwards	Martin Henderson	Ann McMahan	Tom Power	Roy Thomas	Fiona Wright
Barbara Brider	David Edwards	Carol Henshaw	Moira McVay	Patricia Pranauskas	Roy Thomas	
Peter Broadbent	Sheila Elliott	Andrew Heppleston	James McVicar	Ken Ratcliff	Bernard Thomason	
Ruth Broadfoot	Norma Ellis	Jennie Heppleston	Julie Meredith	Maureen Ratcliff	Jenny Thompson	

Officers of Congleton Choral Society 1971 - 2021

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Alan Baker Eric Pratt Pam Eaton Ray Woodfine
David Johnson Nick Concannon Hodges Christopher Cromar

Accompanists

Ann Sheard Janet Fox Andrew Dean Sally Drage
Angela Worswick Andy Donaldson Andrew Green

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