

The Royal Tunbridge Wells Choral Society is a vibrant community of people from all walks of life. It is an amateur, mixed voice choir spanning a wide age group, with members drawn from the Kent and East Sussex area in and around Tunbridge Wells. Professional director Robyn Sevastos, and expert accompanist Craig Hudson, teach, guide and inspire us in a wide range of choral music.

The Choral Society stages four concerts a year — at the Assembly Hall Theatre in Tunbridge Wells with professional soloists and orchestra, and other venues.

We are always happy to hear from anyone who is interested in joining the Choir. Come to a rehearsal, every Monday in term time, at St John's Church Hall, Amherst Road, Tunbridge Wells, from 7.30pm. For more details of events and how to join, visit our website: www.rtwcs.org.uk.

SUPPORTING ARTS IN THE COMMUITY

If you would like to support arts in the community, and RTWCS in particular, you can become a Patron to help the Choir maintain its high standard of performance with professional soloists and orchestra. For more information, contact Elena, <u>patrons_secretary@rtwcs.org.uk</u>.

Many thanks to our current patrons and friends:

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REGAL MASTERPIECES

HANDEL'S CORONATION ANTHEMS

Zadok the Priest
Let Thy Hand be Strengthened
The King Shall Rejoice
My Heart is Inditing

INTERVAL

BEETHOVEN'S MASS IN C MAJOR, OP 86

Kyrie Eleison Gloria in Excelsis Credo Sanctus Benedictus Agnus Dei

Royal Tunbridge Wells Choral Society & Orchestra

Conductor: Robyn Sevastos
Orchestra leader: Rachel Hess
Organist: Croig Hudson

Organist: Craig Hudson

Soloists: Kristy Swift, Helen Stanley, Stephen Anthony Brown, Peter Grevatt

ABOUT THE COMPOSERS



GEORGE FRIDERIC HANDEL (1685-1759)

George Frideric Handel was born and raised in Germany but moved to London at the age of 27 and became a British subject. He was highly praised and respected in Britain, and worked as the Composer of Music for the Chapel Royal under George II.

Unusually for a living person, Handel had a statue in his honour erected in Vauxhall Gardens in London. Known for his Italian operas, Handel also wrote several large-scale oratorios in English, and

Messiah is one of these, full of famous and sublimely beautiful music. As a child he studied music with Friedrich Wilhelm Zachow, organist at the Liebfrauenkirche, and for a time he seemed destined for a career as a church organist himself.

English audiences took to his 1711 opera Rinaldo, and shortly afterwards Handel moved to England permanently. He impressed King George early on with the Water Music of 1716, written as entertainment for a royal boat outing.

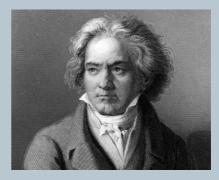
Through the 1720s Handel composed Italian operatic masterpieces for London stages: Ottone, Serse (Xerxes), and other works often based on classical stories. In the 1730s and 1740s Handel turned to the oratorio which displayed to maximum effect Handel's melodic gift and the sense of timing he brought to big choral numbers.

In 1737 Handel suffered a stroke, which caused both temporary paralysis in his right arm and some loss of his mental faculties. Blind in old age, Handel continued to compose. He died in London on April 14, 1759. Beethoven thought Handel the greatest of all his predecessors; he once said, "I would bare my head and kneel at his grave".

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN (1770-1827)

Ludwig van Beethoven was a German composer, and a predominant musical figure in the transitional period between the Classical and Romantic eras.

Widely regarded as the greatest composer who ever lived, Ludwig van Beethoven dominates a period of musical



history as no one else before or since. Rooted in the Classical traditions of Joseph Haydn and Mozart, his art reaches out to encompass the new spirit of humanism and incipient nationalism expressed in the works of Goethe and Friedrich von Schiller, his elder contemporaries in the world of literature; the stringently redefined moral imperatives of Kant; and the ideals of the French Revolution, with its passionate concern for the freedom and dignity of the individual.

He revealed more vividly than any of his predecessors the power of music to convey a philosophy of life without the aid of a spoken text; and in certain of his compositions is to be found the strongest assertion of the human will in all music, if not in all art. Though not himself a Romantic, he became the fountainhead of much that characterized the work of the Romantics who followed him, especially in his ideal of program or illustrative music, which he defined in connection with his *Sixth (Pastoral) Symphony* as "more an expression of emotion than painting." In musical form he was a considerable innovator, widening the scope of sonata, symphony, concerto, and quartet, while in the *Ninth Symphony* he combined the worlds of vocal and instrumental music in a manner never before attempted.

His personal life was marked by a heroic struggle against encroaching deafness, and some of his most important works were composed during the last 10 years of his life when he was quite unable to hear. In an age that saw the decline of court and church patronage, he not only maintained himself from the sale and publication of his works but also was the first musician to receive a salary with no duties other than to compose how and when he felt inclined.

KENTISH OPERA

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18th-20th April 2024 at The Stag, Sevenoaks stagsevenoaks.co.uk





HANDEL'S CORONATION ANTHEMS

Zadok the Priest

Zadok, the Priest and Nathan, the Prophet anointed Solomon King And all the people rejoic'd, and said:

'God save The King, long live The King, may The King live for ever! Amen Hallelujah!'

Let thy Hand Be Strengthened

Let thy hand be strengthened and thy right hand be exalted Let justice and judgment be the preparation of thy seat! Let mercy and truth go before thy face Let justice, judgment, mercy and truth go before thy face Allelujah

The King Shall Rejoice

The King shall rejoice in thy strength, O Lord Exceeding glad shall he be of thy salvation Glory and great worship hast thou laid upon him Thou hast prevented him with the blessings of goodness And hast set a crown of pure gold upon his head Allelujah

My Heart is Inditing

My heart is inditing of a good matter:

I speak of the things which I have made unto the King
Kings daughters were among thy honourable women
Upon thy right hand did stand the Queen in vesture of gold
And the King shall have pleasure in thy beauty
Kings shall be thy nursing fathers
And queens thy nursing mothers

INTERVAL



ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

2024-25 SEASON

2024 06 October 03 November 24 November 2025 02 February 02 March 06 April

Featuring renowned soloists Freddy Kempf, Ke Ma, Carol Jarvis, Guy Johnston, Alexandra Wood and Rebecca Bottone.

With symphonies by Elgar, Dvořák, Brahms, Schumann, Sibelius and Mahler, and other works including Grieg Piano Concerto,

Beethoven Violin Concerto and Strauss Four Last Songs,
our 2024-25 season is not to be missed!

Full programme to be announced soon; tickets on sale summer 2024.

All concerts take place at 3pm at the Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells TN1 2LU

www.rtwso.org





BEETHOVEN'S MASS IN C MAJOR, OP 86

Kyrie

Kyrie eleison Christe eleison. Kyrie eleison.

Gloria

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Et in terra pax hominibus bonæ voluntatis.

Laudamus te.

Benedicimus te.

Adoramus te.

Glorificamus te.

Gratias agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam tuam.

Domine Deus, Rex cœlestis, Deus Pater omnipotens.

Domine Fili unigenite, Jesu Christe. Domine Deus, Agnus Dei, Filius Patris. Qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis. Qui tollis peccata mundi, suscipe deprecationem nostram.

Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris, miserere nobis.

Quoniam tu solus Sanctus.

Tu solus Dominus.

Tu solus Altissimus, Jesu Christe.

Cum Sancto Spiritu, in gloria Dei Patris. Amen.

Kyrie

Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Gloria

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.

We praise thee.

We adore thee.

We bless thee.

We glorify thee.

We give thanks to thee on account of thy great glory.

Lord God, king of heaven, God the omnipotent Father.

Lord the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father: Who takest away the sins of the world,

have mercy upon us.

Who takest away the sins of the world, hear our prayer.

Who sittest at the right hand of the Father, have mercy upon us.

For thou alone art holy, thou alone art God, thou alone art most high.

Jesus Christ, with the Holy Ghost, in the glory of God the Father.

Amen.

Credo

Credo in unum Deum.

Patrem omnipotentem, factorem cœli et terrae,

visibilium omnium et invisibilium.

Et in unum Dominum Jesum Christum,

Filium Dei unigenitum,

Et ex Patre natum ante omnia saecula.

Deum de Deo, lumen de lumine,

Deum verum de Deo vero.

Genitum, non factum,

consubstantialem Patri:

per quem omnia facta sunt. Qui propter nostram salutem

descendit de cœlis.

Et incarnatus est de Spiritu Sancto

ex Maria Virgine:

Et homo factus est.

Crucifixus etiam pro nobis sub Pontio Pilato: Pilate;

passus, et sepultus est.

Et resurrexit tertia die, secundum scripturas.

Et ascendit in cœlum:

sedet ad dexteram Patris.

Et iterum venturus est

cum gloria judicare vivos et mortuos:

Cujus regni non erit finis.

Et in Spiritum sanctum Dominum,

et vivificantem:

Qui ex Patre, Filioque procedit.

Qui cum Patre, et Filio simul adoratur,

et conglorificatur:

Qui locutus est per Prophetas.

Et unam, sanctam, catholicam et apostolicam

Ecclesiam.

Confiteor unum baptisma in remissionem peccatorum.

Et expecto resurrectionem mortuorum

Et vitam venturi saeculi.

Amen.

Credo

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,

maker of heaven and earth,

and of all things visible and invisible,

and in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,

born of the Father before all ages; God of God, Light of Light,

very God of very God;

begotten, not made, being of one substance

with the Father,

by whom all things were made,

who for us men and for our salvation came

down from heaven,

and was incarnate of the Holy Ghost

by the Virgin Mary, and was made man;

and was crucified also for us under Pontius

he suffered and was buried;

and on the third day he rose again according

to the Scriptures,

and ascended into heaven,

and sitteth on the right hand of the Father,

and he shall come again,

with glory, to judge both the quick and the

dead;

whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and

Giver of life,

who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped

and glorified;

who spake by the Prophets.

And I believe in one holy Catholic and

Apostolic Church;

I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission

of sins:

and I look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

Sanctus

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus, Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Pleni sunt cœli et terra gloria tua.
Hosanna in excelsis.

Benedictus

Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini. Hosanna in excelsis.

Agnus Dei

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem

Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts. Heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Benedictus

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Agnus Dei

Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Grant us peace.



RTWCS are excited to for our upcoming tour to Weisbaden, Germany on 20th April!





ROYAL TUNBRIDGE WELLS CHORAL SOCIETY SINGERS

I .			
Elaine Abbs	Adriana Capadose	Evelien	Kate Sarkis
Glynis Avis	Heather Champion	Hurst-Buist	Ann Spillman
Sue Barker	Sue Cordani	Elena Lewis-Grey	Penny Stephens
Debbie Benson	Amy Cordani	Joanna Mace	Christine
Adrienne Bishop	Val Crichton	Louise Packham	Swindlehurst
Gilly Bishop	Elena Gente	Michele Palmer	Catherine
Diana Blower	Helen Gotts	Eileen Phillips	Whitlock
Fiona Booth	Maggie Hall	Barbara Ross-Jones	Anne Willatt
Felicity Brown	Tricia Hardingham	Frances Rotunno	Joanne Wye

Altos

Judith Aveson	Caroline Horobin	Amanda Philip	Yvonne Spencer
Margaret Butcher	Pat Jay	Catherine Rigby	Anne Symons
Gillian	Alison Jenks	Ros Robertson	Nicky Thompson
Cameron Cooper	Sheila Jones	Kay Ruby	Katherine Tucker
Amy Cook	Ailsa Kelleher	Jane Selley	Alice Velge
Pauline Coxshall	Pauline Lloyd	Jenny Selway	Jane Walters
Joanna Finlay	Laura Marshall	Maggie Slater	Pam White
Celia Grew	Ailsa McMahon	Lucy Smalley	Sarah White
Yvonne Hancock	Lea Owen	Alison Stevenson	
Judith Henderson	Catherine Palmer	Christine Stephens	

Tenors

David Cook	Peter Mace	Martin	Richard Walmsley
Peter Elliott	Janet Noble	Swindlehurst	Mike Wood
Richard	Olivia Seaman	Susan Taylor	
Hardingham	Alan Spencer	Nick Vaisey	

Basses

Ian Aveson	Mike Dowden	Graham Hall	Michael Selway
David Barker	Robert Fenn	David Ham	Christopher Smart
Jeremie Bodin	Nick Franck	Anthony Hoskin	Clive Steward
Robin	Gavin Grant	Bob Jay	Martin Williams
Cameron Cooper	Glen Goodall	Hugh McLeod	David Wright
Tarquin Crouch	Antony Gordon	Steve Margiotta	
Stephen Davis	Chris Gutteridge	Stephen Pollard	

1st Violins Rachel Hess (Leader), Andrew Condon,

Phil McKerracher, Monika Molnar, Tracey Renwick

2nd Rosie Cousins, Mark Cousins, Susan Skone James, Robert

Violins Skone James

Viola Jenny Carter, Dave Griffiths, Vanessa Townsend, Jean

Picton Bentley

Cello Helen Drayton, Helen Griffiths, Marion Hitchcock

Bass Rob Ferguson Flute Ian McLauchlan

Oboe Jenny Jaggard, Caroline Marwood

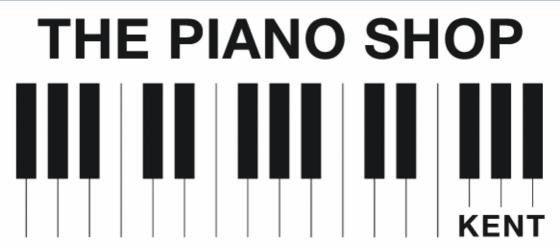
Clarinet David Floyd

Bassoon

Horn Stephanie Jeffery

Trumpet Nick Walker, Edward Sykes, Derek Cozens

Timpani David Coronel
Organ Craig Hudson



Nevill Estate Yard, Eridge, Tunbridge Wells, TN3 9JR 01892 543233

www.thepianoshopkent.co.uk

MUSICAL DIRECTOR, ROBYN SEVASTOS



Robyn graduated from Melbourne University with a BMus, and First Class Honours in Performance. She subsequently moved to England to continue her studies, obtained a Postgraduate Diploma in Piano Accompaniment at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, and a Performance Diploma from the Royal College of Music. She performed extensively as a piano soloist, and accompanied and coached singers and instrumentalists in the UK and abroad. As a conductor,

she has directed many choral and operatic works, often working with internationally renowned artists. In addition to Royal Tunbridge Wells Choral Society, she is music director of London Opera Productions, Kentish Opera, the Llantilio Crossenny Festival, Sevenoaks Philharmonic Society and Bromley Philharmonic Choir. She has conducted many major choral works, including Verdi's *Requiem* at Croydon's Fairfield concert hall, and Bach's *St Matthew Passion* at St Clement Danes church in London. She has performed at the Royal Albert Hall, the Barbican and the O2 Arena, and at Kensington Palace and Sandringham for the then Prince Charles.

ORCHESTRA LEADER, RACHEL HESS

Rachel was born in London and started learning the violin at the age of nine. She was part of a very musical family and from the age of twelve played with them in chamber music concerts across Europe. She moved to Scotland in 1977 and attended St. Mary's Music School, studying with Nigel Murray. In 1980, Rachel won the Scottish Regional Final of BBC Young Musician of the Year. After studying at the Royal Academy of Music with Carmel Cain and Howard Davies, Rachel became a member of the Royal Opera



House Orchestra at Covent Garden, working with conductors such as Haitink, Solti and Rozhdestvensky. Rachel now enjoys a busy and varied freelance career. She is married to Andrew Laing who she met while working with The Royal Shakespeare Company.



ORGANIST, CRAIG HUDSON

Craig Hudson grew up in Poole, Dorset, learning piano and trumpet from the age of eight. He won scholarships to Clayesmore Preparatory and Senior Schools, where he learned to play the organ, and went on to read maths and music at St John's College, Cambridge. From 2005 to 2012, Craig worked at All Souls Church, Langham Place, combining his Christian faith with his love for music and working with young people. Highlights included

conducting the All Souls Orchestra and Choir, playing in Prom Praise concerts throughout the UK. Since 2012 Craig has been Music Director at St John's Church, Tunbridge Wells, which he combines with teaching and performing. He enjoys working in many different musical styles, from choral music to jazz. He has directed the nine-voice ladies choir 'Mums n'Roses' since 2013, and has accompanied RTWCS since January 2017.

SOLOIST, KRISTY SWIFT

British/Australian soprano Kristy Swift has been based in London since 2007, and in that time has performed as a soloist in several of the major concert venues in the UK and Europe, including the Royal Festival Hall, the Barbican Centre, Bridgewater Hall, St. David's Hall and the Leipzig Gewandhaus. Her concert repertoire is extensive, and includes the Requiems of Mozart, Verdi, Brahms, Faure and Saint-Saëns, the Mozart Mass in C Minor, the Beethoven Mass in C and both the Stabat Mater and Petite Messe



Solennelle by Rossini. Kristy has a particular interest in performing contemporary work, and features on several recordings of new music for The Australian Music Centre. She received rave reviews for her performances as Meg in Richard Wargo's "Winners" (Wexford Festival) and Elana in Llywelyn ap Myrddin's "The Crocodile" (Tête-à-tête Festival). On the operatic stage, she has appeared in a variety of operas, including Violetta in "La Traviata", Tatiana in "Eugene Onegin" (both for Opera South East), First Lady in "The Magic Flute" (Mid Wales Opera), Venus in "Orpheus in the Underworld" and Marzelline in Beethoven's "Leonore" (both for the Buxton Festival).



SOLOIST, HELEN STANLEY

Helen studied at RAM and RWCMD, where she won several prizes including the Seligman Award for Excellence. Her solo concert highlights include Bach St John Passion and Mass in B with the Academy of St Martin in the Fields, Beethoven Missa

Solemnis with the Southbank Sinfonia, Daniel-Lesur Cantique des Cantiques with the BBC Symphony Chorus and Schmitt Tragédie de Salomé with the BBCSO. She has also appeared in opera galas with Welsh National Opera and Mid Wales Opera. Helen's most recent projects have included the UK tour of Borka: The Goose with No Feathers, an opera for children featuring puppets and animation, and The Power of Paternal Love by Stradella, in its first European performance since 1678. She recently appeared in Grange Park Opera's film of Suor Angelica, and toured Das Wunder der Heliane with Nederlandse Reisopera. Her other roles have included L'Opinion Publique (Orphée aux Enfers), Juno (Semele), Isabella (L'Italiana in Algeri) and Popova (The Bear).

SOLOIST, STEPHEN ANTHONY BROWN

Stephen studied at Trinity College, London and then at the Benjamin Britten International Opera School at the Royal College of Music. His career has led to roles with most of the major UK opera companies and also touring companies such as Opera Della Luna, English Touring Opera, Carl Rosa Opera and the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company. Stephen's opera roles include



Nemorino L'Elisir D'Amore, Don Ramiro La Cenerentola, Ernesto Don Pasquale and Tom Rakewell The Rake's Progress, Tanzmeister and Brighella Ariadne auf Naxos and Spoletta Tosca. For Glyndebourne he has sung Pedro in Prokofiev's Betrothal in a Monastery, Peter Quint (cover) The Turn of the Screw and Lysander (cover) A Midsummer Night's Dream, Belmonte Die Entführung aus dem Serail for Opéra de Baugé in France, and Gamekeeper Rusalka, for Lyric Opera Dublin, and Gabriel with Alison Balsom and Trevor Pinnock at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre. On the concert platform, Stephen

has sung at all of the UK's major Concert Halls and Cathedrals. He regularly sings Bach's Evangelists and Elgar's Gerontius. Some highlights include Verdi's Requiem at London's Barbican and international engagements in Romania, Norway, Jerusalem, Spain, Germany and Ireland.



SOLOIST, PETER GREVATT

Peter was born in Hastings and studied theology and philosophy at King's College, London. He studied voice with Jean Austin Dobson, Derek Hammond-Stroud of the Royal Academy of Music and went on to train with Michael Maurel. He wandered off to Italy in his early twenties and found

himself on stage with Pavarotti at the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino . His professional debut in a major role was as Mozart's Figaro for London Opera Players, to which he quickly added Malatesta (Don Pasquale) at Holland Park, Dandini (La Cenerentola), Onegin and a number of other, largely lyric, baritone roles. Over the following decades he has steadily added to his list of around ninety roles, singing for companies such as The Opera Project, Nationale Reisopera, Festival dei Due Mondi, Opéra Nationale de Bordeaux, Kentish Opera, Opera à la Carte, the (new) D'Oyly Carte and many others. He regularly performs the popular oratorio canon and other sacred works and has an extraordinarily wide and eclectic concert repertoire. 2011 saw the start of an extremely successful association with Saga Holidays. Since then, as a Music Host, Peter has written and presented hundreds of illustrated talks and recitals whilst hosting, for Saga, several classically-themed river cruises ranging from Schubert and Verdi to Gilbert and Sullivan; a decade of Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra seasons; the Festival Internacional de Música de Canarias; the International Gilbert and Sullivan Festival holidays; seven seasons of the Arena di Verona Opera Festival along with many trips to Vienna, Cologne and Budapest for similar projects.

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Video & Motion



Website design





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OTHER CONCERTS

SUMMER CONCERT

Saturday 22ND June 2024

7.30pm, Holmewood House School, Tunbridge Wells RTWCS sings Jazz, conducted by Robyn Sevastos

MENDELSSOHN'S ELIJAH, OP 70

SUNDAY 10TH NOVEMBER 2024

3.00pm, The Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells Royal Tunbridge Wells Choral Society, conducted by Robyn Sevastos

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

SATURDAY 14TH DECEMBER 2024

Royal Tunbridge Wells Choral Society, conducted by Robyn Sevastos

Royal Tunbridge Wells
CHORAL
SOCIETY



SMOOTH GROOVE: A JAZZ CONCERT



Including songs from "In the mood" collection and Bob Chilcott's "Jazz folk songs for choirs"

SATURDAY 22ND JUNE 2024, 7.30 PM

THE JUBILEE THEATRE,
HOLMEWOOD HOUSE SCHOOL,
LANGTON GREEN,
TN3 OEB

ADULT: £15 CHILD: £7.50

Tickets are available through our website or at the door, and include one glass of wine or soft drink.