

# PROGRAMME

## 2023-2024

### Remembrance Concert

Saturday 11th November 2023

St Wilfrid's Church, Haywards Heath, 7:30 pm

Gounod - St Cecilia Mass

Franck - Panis Angelicus

Parry - I Was Glad

Hammersley - Remembrance

In aid of The Royal British Legion



### Advent Carol Concert

Thursday 14th December 2023

Ardingly College Chapel, 8:00 pm

Vivaldi - Gloria

Carols

Non-members welcome to perform

Rehearsal 6:15 pm

In aid of St Peter & St James Hospice



### Spring Concert

Sunday 14th April 2024

Ardingly College Chapel, 6:30 pm

Bach - St Matthew Passion



### Choral Evensong

Wednesday 3rd July 2024

Chichester Cathedral



### Summer Social

July 2024

[www.ardinglychoralsociety.org.uk](http://www.ardinglychoralsociety.org.uk)



*Ardingly Choral Society is a member of Making Music  
and promotes choral music and charitable fundraising  
in the community*

Registered Charity No: 1123464

[www.ardinglychoralsociety.org.uk](http://www.ardinglychoralsociety.org.uk)



GREAT MUSIC in a RELAXED ATMOSPHERE

AN INVITATION TO SING WITH US

PROGRAMME  
2023-2024 SEASON

**Conductor Robert Hammersley's** distinguished musical career began at King's College, Cambridge as Senior Chorister in 1955-6. He was Senior Choral Scholar at Magdalen College, Oxford in 1973 and conducted the Scholar Cantorum of Oxford from 1971-74.



He has conducted the London Mozart Players, the Bournemouth Sinfonietta and the English Chamber Orchestra and was Musical Director of the Holst Chamber Choir and Orchestra.

In the 1970s he was often featured on BBC broadcasts and recordings both as conductor and tenor soloist. Most notable was his platinum disc of Christmas music with Guildford Cathedral Choir and John Eliot Gardner's Monteverdi Choir.

Since then his career has concentrated on education and he was Director of Music at Ardingly College from 1996-2007. He has composed a number of choral and orchestral works, his most recent composition being "Fragile Earth", an environmental choral work premiered in Dorchester Abbey in October 2011.

**Accompanist Rosemary Cole** trained at Trinity College of Music and is well-known locally for her great skills in this role. For some time Director of Music at Ardingly Junior School, she now concentrates on piano teaching and accompanying.

**The Choral Society** performs three major concerts each year and is accompanied by Mid-Sussex Sinfonia together with soloists of international standing.

On occasion, the Society goes on tour. It has performed in Paris, Lille and Ghent and has sung Choral Evensong in St George's Chapel, Windsor and in Chichester and Southwark Cathedrals.



## CONCERT REVIEWS

### J S Bach - St John Passion - 6th April 2014

"The chorus thrilled us with Bach's layered, supercharged waves of sound. They excelled in the crowd scenes and in the stillness of the chorales which provided a breathing space and the opportunity for quiet reflection, captured so well under Robert Hammersley's inspired direction. "

### Verdi - Requiem - Centenary Concert, 2nd April 2017

"A packed Chapel listened spellbound as Ardingly Choral Society surpassed its own high standards in its performance of this great work. The soloists filled the vast auditorium with controlled power, deft phrasing and expressive empathy with the text. Stephen Brown's reduced orchestration (2014) enabled the Sinfonia to complement the singers' suggestion of thoughts too deep for words. The final roof-raising applause said it all: 'A fitting ton-up for the ACS!'"

### Mendelssohn - Elijah - 7th April 2019

"In the soaring College Chapel, this assured, moving performance by Ardingly Choral Society and Mid Sussex Sinfonia captured the contrasting moments of immense dramatic power and extreme gentleness and beauty that are contained in the work."

**Ardingly Choral Society** rehearses in the Recital Room of the Music Centre at Ardingly College from 7:30 to 9:00pm on Thursdays in term time.

We welcome singers of all ages and experience.  
Simply come along to a rehearsal!

*Further information from the web site or  
Society Secretary*

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