



Simon Russell

Simon was born in Liverpool. He studied organ at Birkenhead School with Timothy Lawford and gained his ARCM and FTCL diplomas while still at school, then on to

Cambridge as Organ Scholar at St. Catharine's College, where he continued studies with Dame Gillian Weir and the late Peter Le Huray. After Cambridge he was appointed Assistant Organist at Chester Cathedral but decided after a while to keep music as a hobby and gain his fortune from computer keyboards.

He was firstly accompanist and then Music Director of the Hoylake Choral Society from 1982 until he moved, in 2000, to Nantwich where he is Organist at St Mary's Parish Church. He is an annual recitalist at Bangor and Chester Cathedrals and is on the 'reserve' organist list playing for visiting choirs and covering holiday periods and other absences. He is also in demand as an organ, piano and theory tutor and has many Associated Board and other pupil distinctions and diploma successes to his credit.

Since May 2014, he has been a full-time professional freelance musician and as well as being accompanist to the Nantwich Choral Society, he is also accompanist to the Jubilate Chamber Choir, based in Cheltenham. Simon is also an examiner for the London College of Music and the Regional Coordinator for the North of England for the Royal School of Church Music.



Rehearsals are held at 7.30pm each Wednesday during term time at the Nantwich Methodist Church, Hospital Street, Nantwich.

New members are assured of a genuinely friendly and supportive welcome and the first term's membership is free of charge.

For further information about the Nantwich Choral Society please visit our website

<http://nantwichchoral.org.uk>

or contact us by email at

enquiries@nantwichchoral.org.uk

Nantwich Choral Society is a Registered Charity No 516572.

NANTWICH CHORAL SOCIETY

Concert Dates and Events

2016 - 2017

Music Director
John Naylor

Accompanist
Simon Russell

Nantwich Choral Society

Each concert season typically comprises four or five major performances, with a number of smaller events, including an NCS-hosted choral singing day, also in the calendar.

The Society has performed in a variety of venues including St Michael's Church Coppenhall, Chester Cathedral and Nantwich Civic Hall, but its chosen venue is the Parish Church of St Mary at Nantwich. Often described as 'the Cathedral of South Cheshire', this fourteenth century gem was considered by Sir John Betjeman to be architecturally one of the most satisfying mediaeval churches in the country. The vast nave, originally designed for public performance, has witnessed many musical offerings in its six hundred year history, and its acoustics are superb. These are some of the reasons that members of the Choral Society, and visiting professionals alike, consider it a privilege to perform at St Mary's.

Repertoire

NCS performs a wide range of choral works ranging from Baroque masterpieces to world premieres of contemporary composers, either *a capella* or with accompaniment ranging from piano or organ to brass consort or with their associated fully professional orchestra – The Northern Concordia Orchestra.

Programme of events

2016 – 2017

Saturday 22 October 2016

St Mary's Church, Acton

Singing Day: Ave Maria – Composers through the Ages

Saturday 12 November 2016

St Mary's Nantwich

Andrew Lloyd Webber: Requiem

Saturday 17 December 2016

St Mary's Nantwich

Family Carol Concert

with Nantwich Young Voices

Saturday 7 January 2017

St Mary's Nantwich

Come and Sing: Handel's Messiah

with the Nantwich Sinfonia

Sunday 26 March 2017

Nantwich Civic Hall

Mendelssohn: Elijah

with The Northern Concordia Orchestra

Saturday 15 July 2017

St Mary's Nantwich

John Rutter: The Sprig of Thyme and Magnificat

with Ensemble Arpège de Mâcon and

The Nantwich Sinfonia



John Naylor

conductor, singer and organist, combines extensive performance experience in world-class choirs with a lifelong passionate interest in choral music and its performance. Following a successful business career he now devotes most of his activities to conducting and choir development.

His original training was as a choral scholar at St John's College, Cambridge with the great Dr George Guest after keyboard studies with Conrad Eden at Durham Cathedral where he was a chorister, a music scholarship at Rossall School and singing studies with Wilfrid Brown and Lyndon van der Pump from The Royal College of Music.

He has sung in the cathedral choirs of Oxford, Carlisle and Chester and has extensive performance experience with other professional choirs including The Monteverdi Choir, The Louis Halsey Singers, The Academy of St Martin in the Fields and the Chapel Royal of H M Tower of London.

John has been Director of The Lydian Singers since 1980 and also conducts the Open University Chapel Choir. He is one of the region's most experienced choral directors and is particularly noted for his friendly encouragement of singers of all ages and all abilities.

In September 2005 he was appointed Music Director of Nantwich Choral Society for whom he has conducted many highly acclaimed performances.