

**Want
to join a
GREAT
choir?**

come and
sing with us

hertfordshire chorus



about hertfordshire chorus

We are one of the finest large choirs in the country, with over 120 members from across Hertfordshire, surrounding counties and London. We offer a high standard of varied music in a fun and friendly atmosphere.

Chorus Musical Director, **David Temple**, is renowned for his talent, inspiration and enthusiasm. David has a fresh approach to music making and a strong desire to make classical music accessible to wider audiences. He is well known for his innovative programming, combining rarer pieces with favourites. Chorus pianist, Susan Graham Smith, herself an accomplished performer and director, brings quality and musicianship to us all. Our **resident vocal coaches**, Julia Batchelor and Robert Carlin, help our singers enhance and develop their vocal skills. As a choir, we audition on entry and re-audition every three years.



David Temple, Musical Director

We have a special fund to **commission new music**, maintaining and developing choral singing for the future. We are particularly proud of the work we do with children, to help encourage the next generation of choral singers and music enthusiasts.

We sing in some of the **top venues** in the UK with appearances in the Royal Albert Hall, the Royal Festival Hall, the Barbican, Birmingham's Symphony Hall and The Sage Gateshead, as well as concerts in and around Hertfordshire, including St Albans Cathedral.



Rehearsing at the Royal Festival Hall

friendly singers

We are a friendly and welcoming choir and enjoy socialising after rehearsals on a Wednesday and at other times when we can. What better way to meet people than to sing music alongside them and share that post-concert buzz!

“Choral singing wasn’t my scene until a friend dragged me along to a Hertfordshire Chorus recruitment evening. That was a couple of years ago when I had finished university and now I’m hooked. Since then I have sung in Italy, Spain and all the top London venues. I’ve made some of the best friends ever!”

Angela, Soprano



great tours

We regularly travel abroad and across the UK on tours that offer music making, sightseeing and socialising. Tours are an ideal way to meet people - and sing in some wonderful venues, like the Duomo in Florence. We have toured to Italy (Garda, Venice, Sicily, Tuscany and Umbria), Spain (Granada, Seville and Valencia), Israel, Rhodes, France and Germany, as well as Durham, Newcastle and Cambridge.



Todi - concert venue on our Umbria tour

join us!

If you have a good voice, sound musicality and a quick ear, and want to sing with a dynamic choir, then try Hertfordshire Chorus. We always welcome new people, so why not experience an evening singing with us. You can come along to any rehearsal on Wednesday evenings from 7:30pm until 10pm at Bishop’s Hatfield Girls’ School, Woods Avenue, Hatfield, Herts AL10 8NL, or you can look out for one of our special recruitment evenings.

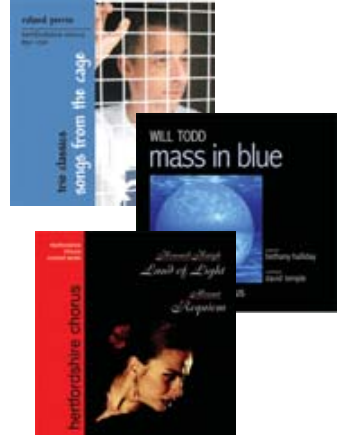
To find out more, contact the recruitment team on 01462 491647 or email membership@hertfordshirechorus.org.uk

what do we sing?

We sing a wide variety of music including:

Mahler 8th *Symphony*, Britten *War Requiem*, Berlioz *Grande Messe des Morts*, John Adams *Harmonium*, Elgar *The Dream of Gerontius*, Tallis *Spem in Alium* and Will Todd *The Burning Road*.

We have also commissioned several works - including Roland Perrin's *Songs from the Cage*, Will Todd's *Mass in Blue*, and Howard Haigh's *Land of Light* - and are thrilled that other choirs have performed them since.



Recordings of Hertfordshire Chorus commissions

concerts - and more

Our highlights include:

- Singing in an episode of *Spooks*, and other TV dramas
- Appearing with José Carreras
- Performing with Daniele Gatti and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in the Royal Albert Hall
- BBC Proms
- Recording at Abbey Road and the BBC studios in Maida Vale
- Singing in a Royal Opera Gala with Lesley Garrett
- Recording a suite of music for Hollywood filmmakers



On location with 'Spooks'



Recording a soundtrack at Abbey Road studios

for more information about the choir visit
www.hertfordshirechorus.org.uk

“there can be few to touch them...”

“A reading of real authority from David Temple and the Hertfordshire Chorus. ... the quality of their training and pacing obviously shows through.”

DR BRIAN HICK, *THE ORGAN*

Beethoven *Missa Solemnis*: St Albans Cathedral

“Hertfordshire Chorus is a wonderful choir. If you get a chance to hear them, take it. You will be both inspired and exhilarated.”

GRAEME DANBY, PRINCIPAL, *ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA*

“Really splendid!”

JOHN RUTTER, CBE

Will Todd Mass In Blue, *Brahms Ein Deutsches Requiem*:
Barbican Hall

“A truly inspirational evening...The whole programme was a delight... Hertfordshire Chorus suggested to me last year at the Barbican, in a spectacular performance of the *Mass In Blue* they commissioned from Will Todd, that they can hold their own against any choir in the land. This year at the Royal Festival Hall my view was confirmed.”

HELEN WRIGHT, *MUSICOMH*

Holst Hymn to Jesus, *Berlioz Te Deum*, *Tallis Spem in Alium*:
Royal Festival Hall

“The quality of singing was a joy...an unforgettable experience.”

HAROLD HUGHES, OBE, *THE BERLIOZ SOCIETY*

Berlioz Grande Messe des Morts: St Albans Cathedral

“A completely stunning performance.”

JOHN MANNING, *HERTS ADVERTISER*

Elgar The Dream of Gerontius: St Albans Cathedral

“A tremendous performance.”

JOHN WESTCOMBE, ST ALBANS OBSERVER

Britten War Requiem: St Albans Cathedral

who needs prozac when you can sing prokofiev?

Why feel the blues when you can shake them off by singing the blues? Studies have shown that choral singing increases immunity, reduces depression, improves cognitive function, lowers stress levels and releases endorphins, the feel-good hormones. A joint Harvard and Yale study even found that it increases life expectancy by promoting a healthy heart and a better state of mind.

Becoming so thoroughly absorbed in something that you forget everything else is a very effective agent of wellbeing. Watching TV or lying in the bath won't get you there. You need to be challenged and stretched. Then, when you get it exactly right, you experience the spiritual equivalent of the "ping" that a tennis racket makes on a brilliant shot.

Choral singing is good for the body, and good for the soul... So - make it a resolution to sing!

*adapted from an article in
The Times, January 2007*

find out more at

www.hertfordshirechorus.org.uk
