

Lord Williams's Festival Chorus

Patron – Howard Goodall
President – Adrian Thompson
Musical Director – John Gibbons

A member of:



Lord Williams's Festival Chorus now numbers well over a hundred enthusiastic, un-auditioned singers, and has tackled most of the major choral repertoire, including Handel's 'Messiah', Requiems by Verdi, Mozart, Brahms and Karl Jenkins, Bach's B minor Mass and Elgar's 'Dream of Gerontius'.

Membership is open to anyone keen to enjoy singing whilst learning and gaining confidence under the guidance of John Gibbons, who shares with us his extensive experience in both opera and choral music.

John Gibbons - Musical Director

John Gibbons is one of the leading conductors of British Music, conducting neglected masterpieces from 20th Century Britain with a passionate conviction enhanced by clear musical thought and intensity.



John has been Principal Conductor of Worthing Symphony Orchestra, the professional orchestra of West Sussex, since 1997, presenting a regular series of concerts with distinguished international soloists.

He is choral director of Clifton Cathedral Choir as well as music director of the St Albans Chamber Choir

and the Ealing Symphony Orchestra, whose adventurous programmes draw audiences from far and wide.

John is Chairman of the British Music Society, and a Trustee of the William Alwyn Foundation.



Tickets

www.wegotickets.com

Available on door or in advance:

Online www.lordwilliamsfestivalchorus.org.uk
Cargo 18 Cornmarket, Thame
Rosemary 01844 344083

Enjoy singing?

Why not join us? The chorus welcomes new members who are keen to join a friendly choir with an interesting and challenging future. Our rehearsals are held on Monday evenings (term-time only), 7.30 to 9.30 pm, at Lord Williams's Upper School in Thame.

Call Claire on 01844 215205 or come along and try a session - no audition!

March Concert

Rehearsals start Monday 9th January

July Concert

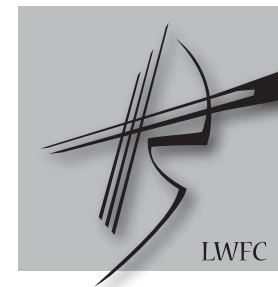
Rehearsals start Monday 16th April

December Concert

Rehearsals start Monday 3rd September



Lord Williams's Festival Chorus reserves the right to change programmes and/or artists if necessary.



Lord Williams's
Festival Chorus

2012 SEASON



Musical Director - John Gibbons

www.lordwilliamsfestivalchorus.org.uk

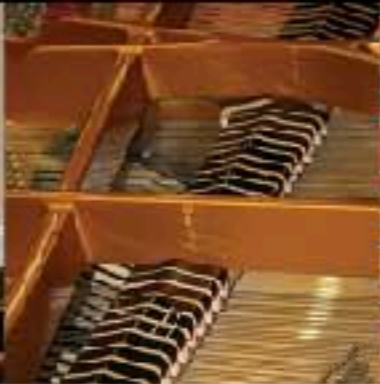
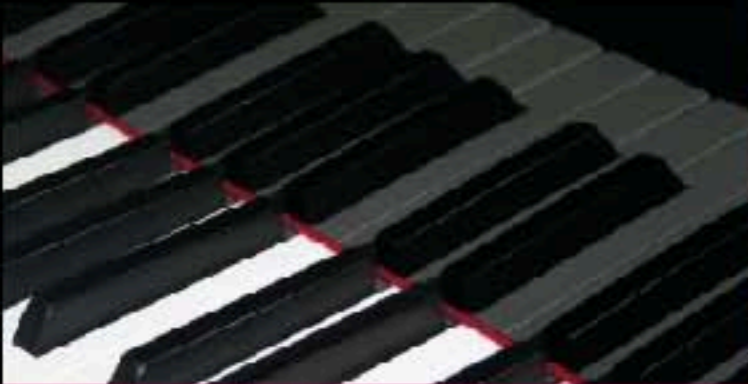
Registered charity 1112966

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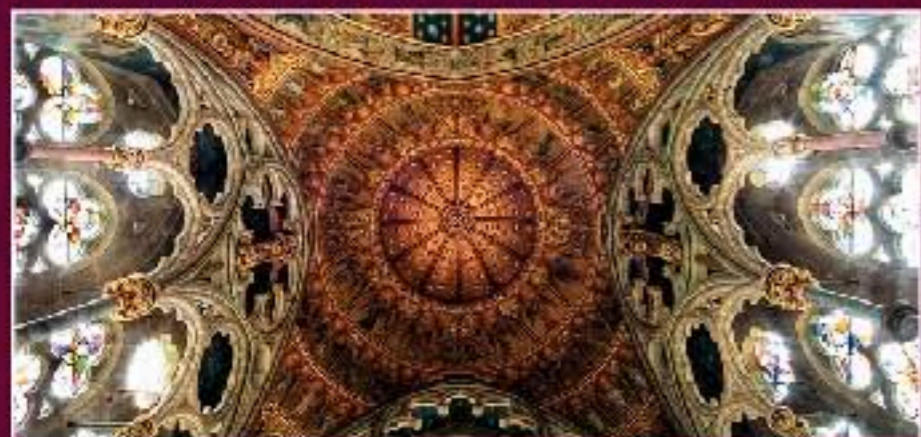
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Saturday 24th March, 2012 at 7.30pm

Thame Leisure Centre, Oxford Road, Thame, OX9 2BB
Ealing Symphony Orchestra

Rediscovered diamonds



Giacomo Puccini (1858-1924)
Messa di Gloria

In 1951, American priest Dante del Fiorentino stumbled across what he thought was the original manuscript of an unpublished Puccini Mass. He took it home, edited it, and re-titled it *Messa di Gloria*. The Puccini family took exception to this and a battle for publication rights ensued. It is now recognised as a timelessly beautiful piece: a great creative force upon which many of his best-loved melodies were founded.

Edward Elgar (1857-1934)
Coronation Ode

Who doesn't get a tingle during 'Land of Hope and Glory', the Finale of Elgar's *Coronation Ode*? But you may not be familiar with the rest of this rousing piece, which was written for the coronation of Edward VII and Queen Alexandra in 1902. In celebration of Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee, come and help us raise the roof!

William Walton (1902 - 1983)
Crown Imperial

The Ealing Symphony Orchestra continues our jubilee celebrations with an energetic rendition of this instantly recognisable March. First performed at King George VI's coronation in 1937, it has become one of Walton's most popular compositions.

Saturday 14th July, 2012 at 7.30pm

Thame Leisure Centre, Oxford Road, Thame, OX9 2BB
Ealing Symphony Orchestra

Singing one song



Karl Jenkins (1944 -)
The Peacemakers

Karl Jenkins is now the most-performed living composer in the world. Indeed, *The Armed Man (A Mass for Peace)* has been performed on average twice a week since 2000. With his roots in Jazz, he is well known for his memorable advert and film scores, and for the beauty of his accessible choral compositions. His music continues to be innovative and instantly recognisable.

His newest work, *The Peacemakers*, will see its World Premiere at Carnegie Hall in January 2012.

Inspirational texts by Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Mandela, the Dalai Lama, Shelley, the Bible and the Quran urge mankind to sing one song for peace.

Lord Williams's Festival Chorus is thrilled to be championing Karl's work once again with this local premiere.

Saturday 8th December, 2012 at 7.30pm

Thame Leisure Centre, Oxford Road, Thame, OX9 2BB
Ealing Symphony Orchestra

Anguish and passion



Frederick Delius (1862 - 1934)
Sea Drift

Sea Drift is among Delius' larger scale works, and was first performed in 1906. Set for baritone, chorus and orchestra, with words from Walt Whitman's 'Leaves of Grass,' the motion of waves is suggested throughout by the orchestra, whilst the chorus tells the anguished story of a pair of separated seagulls.

George Bizet (1838 - 1875)
Carmen

Bizet died at 36 of a heart attack, never knowing that *Carmen* would become one of the most popular and frequently performed operas in the canon. Everyone's heard of his eponymous fiery gypsy girl, and it's hard now to believe that when the piece opened at the Opera-Comique in Paris, in March 1875, it was so poorly received that the theatre had to give away tickets to fill seats. *Carmen* broke down the distinction between serious and comic opera, and fledged the movement of realism known as *verismo*. The choir will be singing this concert performance in French.