

## WELCOME

to our fortieth anniversary season, celebrating the wide range of music SCC has become known for, from the plainsong of Advent antiphons to music from today's leading composers. We're particularly excited to be giving the first performance of two specially commissioned antiphon settings by locally-born David Bednall. We have known David for many years and are delighted that he is now an internationally renowned composer. The two settings are the first part of a three year project with the choir, so we look forward to performing the complete set in 2021.

An anniversary choral season wouldn't be complete without some Bach and the *Mass in B Minor* is arguably the pinnacle of his achievements, and a great favourite of ours, so was really the only choice for our anniversary celebration concert in March – don't miss it!

We finish this special season in June with a musical trip across Europe – experience *The Grand Tour* without leaving home, or at least your favourite Abbey pew!

Do join us for a memorable season.

Paul Ellis, Musical Director

## SHERBORNE CHAMBER CHOIR

Formed in 1979, Sherborne Chamber Choir is an auditioned choir of around forty-five members from Sherborne and the surrounding area. We thrive on variety and sing a wide range of music, from the sixteenth century to the present day. Under the inspirational leadership of our Musical Director, Paul Ellis, we have built up a reputation for the high standard of our performances and regularly give concerts with some of this country's top soloists and instrumentalists.

We have a long-standing informal relationship with Sherborne Abbey, giving at least three varied concerts a year there, as well as singing for occasional services. Further afield we have performed at Notre Dame Cathedral, Paris, in San Gimignano and Siena Cathedral, Italy, Bruges, Edinburgh, and, most recently, in Trogir, Croatia.

Our fortieth season is packed with an eclectic mix of choral music spanning five centuries, all in the spectacular setting of Sherborne Abbey.

Sherborne Chamber Choir is a registered charity No. 1113380.

Photos of SCC by Josie Sturgess, Sturgess Commercial Photography.

Information correct at the time of going to press: programmes are subject to change.

## TICKETS

NEW! Tickets for our concerts are now available online via our website

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

and from

Sherborne Tourist Information Centre,  
tel. 01935 815341

Tickets are also available on the door, subject to availability.

Tickets for Sherborne Abbey Festival concerts are available at the TIC and from [www.sherborneabbeyfestival.org](http://www.sherborneabbeyfestival.org)

## KEEP IN TOUCH

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Fortieth anniversary season  
2019-2020  
Sherborne Abbey

SHERBORNE  
CHAMBER CHOIR  
Musical Director Paul Ellis

Saturday 30 November 7.30pm

## MAGNIFICAT

Our annual concert of inspirational music to celebrate the start of Advent and the Christmas season, with some of the finest choral settings dedicated to the Virgin Mary from across the ages. This year's programme is based around the traditional plainsong settings of the Advent antiphons, along with interpretations by today's composers, settings of the Magnificat and Advent carols.

Music includes settings of the Magnificat by Arvo Pärt and Stanford and motets and carols by Bruckner, Eric Ešenvalds, James MacMillan, Cecilia McDowall, Peter Warlock and Judith Weir. The programme also includes the first performance of two specially commissioned antiphon settings by David Bednall for our fortieth anniversary.

Organist Christopher Allsop

Tickets £5 (unreserved) | under 18s free of charge | Reserved tickets £10-£16



Saturday 21 March 7.30pm

## JS BACH MASS IN B MINOR

Rachel Elliott, soprano | Helen Charlston, mezzo soprano | Nick Hawker, tenor | Morgan Pearse, baritone

Sherborne Baroque Players, leader Alison Bury

*Bach opens a vista to the universe.*

*After experiencing him, people feel there is meaning to life after all.*

Helmut Walcha

Our fortieth anniversary celebration concert had to be Bach! A rare chance to hear one of the most celebrated masterpieces in the repertoire, regarded by many as the pinnacle of Bach's great output. It stands alone as the culmination of a lifetime's work; Bach completed the mass shortly before his death and never heard it performed complete. From the dramatic opening *Kyrie* to the power of the closing *Dona nobis pacem*, it is technically awe-inspiring yet life-affirming music.

We're joined by a period orchestra of some of the finest players in the country and four top soloists for this monumental work.

Tickets £5 (unreserved) | under 18s free of charge | Reserved tickets £10-£20



Saturday 2 May 7.30pm

## ELGAR THE KINGDOM

Sherborne Festival Chorus  
with Chameleon Arts Orchestra

We're delighted to be part of Sherborne Festival Chorus again for its annual concert in the Sherborne Abbey Festival. Elgar's final oratorio gives a moving portrait of the lives of Jesus's disciples following the Ascension and the life of the early Church. With rich and colourful orchestral writing and a dramatic vocal style which is almost operatic in places, this magnificent work is Elgar at his most inspired. Though it is not as often performed as *Gerontius*, Sir Adrian Boult considered it to be Elgar's greatest choral work – praise indeed!

For ticket details and further information about the Festival, see [www.sherborneabbeyfestival.org](http://www.sherborneabbeyfestival.org).

Saturday 20 June 7.30pm

## A GRAND TOUR

Beat the airport queues and join us in the Abbey as we embark on a musical journey across Europe, from France to Latvia, Italy to Norway, with music from the sixteenth century to the present day. We guarantee no politics – just great music! The programme includes music by Debussy, Elgar, Eric Ešenvalds, Wagner and more.

Organist Simon Clarkson

Tickets £5 (unreserved) | under 18s free of charge |  
Reserved tickets £10-£16