

About the Thames Vale Singers

Thames Vale Singers started life 50 years ago. In the beginning we performed concert versions of musicals in costume, and have given many concerts of Gilbert and Sullivan. However over time the choir repertoire developed a broader base including part songs, spirituals, madrigals, popular music, and the sacred and classical - almost anything in fact. Recent performances have included a Schubert Mass, Butler's Magnificat, a fun version of Wind in the Willows and of course Christmas concerts.

Although we strive for the highest musical standards, irrespective of what we are currently singing we always have fun. Rehearsals are usually punctuated with hilarity (even those for Mozart's Requiem!). We believe that the social nature of the choir, the wide repertoire and the accent on enjoyment gives the Thames Vale Singers its unique character. We are very much a community choir and support local churches and other organisations.

Our base is Purley Memorial Hall (where we started 50 years ago) and we rehearse on a Tuesday night. We believe in open access and require no auditions or demonstration of previous musical experience from potential members. However in order to preserve the current size of the choir, and to maintain balance, we place a limit on the numbers to each part and operate a waiting list system when parts are full. The good news is that we currently have vacancies for Tenors and Bases and if you are interested in joining then you should talk to any choir member.

Bernard Soper has been musical director for the last three years. A music teacher by profession he has brought a wealth of experience of directing choral and musical groups, as well as technical knowledge in the art of singing. Under his guidance the choir has developed and is still improving.

Peter Bernard is our long-suffering accompanist. Peter has been with us many years and we never cease to be in awe of his keyboard skills either as accompanist or soloist.



Thames Vale Singers

SPRING CONCERT

MOZART REQUIEM

*Friday 14th March, 2008 at
St Catherine's Church, Tilehurst
&*

*Saturday 15th March, 2008 at
St Mary's Church, Burghfield*

Starting at 8pm

*Musical Director: Bernard Soper
Accompanist: Peter Bernard*

Programme Order

- | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|------------|
| • Ave Verum Corpus K618 | Choir | Mozart |
| • Exsultate Jubilate K165 | Sally de Frates | Mozart |
| • Sicut Cervus | Choir | Palestrina |
| • Locus Iste | Choir | Bruckner |
| • Two opera arias | Sally de Frates | Mozart |

Five minute interval

- | | | |
|----------------|-------|--------|
| • Requiem K626 | Choir | Mozart |
|----------------|-------|--------|

The Requiem K626 is divided into fourteen movements, as follows:

- Introitus (Requiem aeternam)
- Kyrie
- Sequence:
 - Dies irae
 - Tuba mirum
 - Rex tremendae
 - Recordare
 - Confutatis
 - Lacrimosa
- Offertory:
 - Domine Jesu Christe
 - Hostias
- Sanctus
- Benedictus
- Agnus Dei
- Communion (Lux aeterna)

Soloists: Sally de Frates (Soprano), Edna Bint (Alto), Norman Bagshaw (Tenor) and John Drabble (Bass).

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

The Requiem Mass in D minor by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was composed in 1791. The requiem was Mozart's last composition, and is one of his most powerful and recognized works, not only for its music, but also for the debate over how much of the music Mozart managed to complete before his death, and how much was later composed by his colleague Franz Xaver Süssmayr.

Despite debate about how much of the music was Mozart's, the Requiem has taken a prominent place as one of Mozart's most important works.

Acknowledgements

This note was supplied through www.en.wikipedia.org

