

Dates for Your Diary

Summer Concerts

Lighthearted concerts with some well known songs and numbers.

Friday 15th and Saturday 16th July 2011
at the Barn, Purley on Thames.

Christmas Concerts

Our Christmas Concerts will be at the Barn,
Purley on Thames.

Friday 16th and Saturday 17th December
2011.

For more details about these concerts as
they become available keep watching our
website:

www.thamesvalesingers.org.uk

Thinking of Joining Us?

Thames Vale Singers would currently
welcome new tenors or basses although
there is a waiting list for sopranos and
altos.

If you would like more information and
are interested in joining us please
telephone Linda Stern on:

0118 946 1150

or email us on:

mail@thamesvalesingers.org.uk

Staging provided by **PURLEY PLAYERS**

www.purleyplayers.org.uk

Thames Vale Singers

with

Senior Strings Ensemble,
Berkshire Maestros

present

Handel's

MESSIAH



Saturday 16 April 2011

Musical Director: Bernard Soper

Accompanist: Peter Bernard

Senior Strings Ensemble

Directed by: Elizabeth Copperwheat



website: www.thamesvalesingers.org.uk

Messiah by G F Handel

Part 1

1. Overture
2. Recitative - **Comfort ye My people**
3. Air - **Every valley shall be exalted**
4. Chorus - **And the glory of the Lord**
5. Recitative - **Thus saith the Lord**
6. Air - **But who may abide the day of His coming**
7. Chorus - **And He shall purify**
8. Recitative - **Behold a virgin shall conceive**
9. Air /Chorus - **O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion**
10. Recitative - **For Behold, darkness shall cover the earth**
11. Air - **The people that walked in darkness**
12. Chorus - **For unto us a child is born**
13. Interlude - **Pastorale Symphony**
14. Recitative - **There were shepherd abiding in the field**
15. Recitative - **And the angel said unto them**
16. Recitative - **And suddenly there was with the angel**
17. Chorus - **Glory to God**
18. Air - **Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion**
19. Recitative - **Then shall the eyes of the blind be opened**
20. Air - **He shall feed His flock like a shepherd**
21. Chorus - **His yoke is easy, and His burthen is light**

INTERVAL - Refreshments

Part II

22. Chorus - **Behold the Lamb of God**
23. Air - **He was despised**
24. Chorus - **Surely He hath borne our griefs**
25. Chorus - **And with His stripes we are healed.**
26. Chorus - **All we like sheep have gone astray.**
27. Recitative - **All they that see Him, laugh Him to scorn.**
28. Chorus - **He trusted in God that He would deliver Him**
29. Chorus - **Lift up your heads, O ye gates**
30. Chorus - **The Lord gave the word**
31. Air - **How beautiful are the feet**
32. Chorus - **Hallelujah**

Part III

33. Air - **I know that my Redeemer liveth**
34. Chorus - **Since by man came death**
35. Recitative - **Behold, I tell you a mystery**
36. Air - **The trumpet shall sound**
37. Chorus - **Worthy is the Lamb**

Messiah was conceived for secular theatre and first performed during Lent leading up to Easter. Opera and theatre was forbidden during the sacred time of Lent and so composers created the Oratorio which used all the features of Opera but with a religious story. This enabled the theatres to stay open. The work is divided into three parts which address specific events in the life of Christ. Part One is primarily concerned with the Advent and Christmas stories. Part Two chronicles Christ's passion, resurrection, ascension, and the proclamation to the world of the Christian message. Part Three is based primarily upon the events chronicled in the Book of Revelation.

Messiah is very much part of the English cultural life, and has become part of the amateur choral scene since the nineteenth century.

When we decided to perform Messiah I wished it very much to be a community performance, for and by the choir. Therefore as far as the difficulty of the music allows I have given members of the choir the opportunity to sing some of the Airs and Recitatives, and even using a whole section of the choir to perform the Airs.

Obviously, some of the solos require a trained singer and Sally de Frates has kindly offered to sing the soprano solos for us and Norman Bagshaw has offered to sing a number of the tenor and bass solos. I have also chosen only the most important choruses without spoiling the continuity to avoid overstretching the choir's stamina and energy.

We have very much enjoyed rehearsing this work and we are very grateful to Sally who has also done a number of sectional rehearsals for the ladies, helping us all to reach some of those high notes as well as making a significant improvement to the tonal quality.

Bernard Soper

Soloists

Soprano: Sally de Frates

Tenor/Bass: Norman Bagshaw

Other soloists:

Sopranos: Diana Bagshaw, Sabita Clark, Melanie Griffiths, Carol Sillitoe, Linda Stern, Caroline Wilson

Altos: Jo Day, Wendy McMahon, Karen Patten

Tenors: Kenneth Baker, Paul Livingston