



Wareham Choral Society

Saturday October 18th 2025 7pm

Lady St Mary Church, Wareham BH20 4ND

A Season to Sing & Vivaldi's Gloria

Tonight's concert features **A Season to Sing**, which WCS is proud to have co-commissioned from British choral composer **Joanna Forbes L'Estrange**.

A Season To Sing is a choral re-imagining of Vivaldi's famous set of violin concerti, The Four Seasons, published 300 years ago. It weaves texts from poetry and the Bible - on the subject of spring, summer, autumn and winter - into Vivaldi's well-loved melodies.

Conductor - **Hazel Ricketts**

Organist - **Paul Ellis**

Soprano - **Beatrice Maloney**

Alto - **Mariah Beswick**

The Four Seasons String Quartet

This concert is dedicated to the memory of
Judith Price,
former Chairman of Wareham Choral Society



Thanks to the King's Arms Stoborough, Love It Local and Dorset Community Foundation for their sponsorship and support



IN MEMORIAM JUDITH PRICE

Judith Price, who died peacefully at home surrounded by family at the end of September, was Chairman of Wareham Choral Society for 10 years.

Indeed, Judith had been involved in choral singing for most of her life, singing in various local choirs in Purbeck, and co-founding one such singing group, (now sadly defunct).

She was then for some years concert manager for the Dorset Guild of Singers. The Guild was a joint opportunity for several small choirs to join forces and perform choral works beyond the scope of each individual choir and stage a big concert in a large venue such as the concert hall at the Lighthouse in Poole.

As you can imagine, doing this job, as well as singing with your own choir, is an onerous task! Judith managed it, of course, with her customary energy and verve.

Judith then joined Wareham Choral Society, and was invited to become Chairman when the previous Chairman retired.

One particularly noteworthy concert was “Wareham Remembers” in 2014, when we remembered the Wareham men who lost their lives in World War 1. Some 53 candles, one for each casualty, were sited beneath the window behind the altar, and Judith curated an exhibition in the Parish Hall with local histories and memorabilia from the period.

Judith was an innovative Chairman, and instigated our first Come-and-Sing event, a tradition which still continues.

Judith also started our series of summer concerts in which we sang music in various secular venues, most notably in Tyneham Village, and the Etches Collection Museum at Kimmeridge soon after its opening.

Judith’s extensive knowledge of the wider choral repertoire helped us choose secular music to fit the venues.

The first such summer concert was in the Hall at Tyneham Village, which, as you know, belongs to the Army. Two weeks before the concert WCS received an email saying that the Army were withdrawing their permission to use the venue!

While the rest of the committee lapsed into a stunned silence, Judith went on the offensive with both guns blazing. There was only ever going to be one victor in this battle, and it wasn’t the Army; the concert went ahead as originally planned.

After 10 years as Chairman, a bout of ill-health meant that Judith had (reluctantly) to retire as Chairman. However, she kept on singing with us.

Unfortunately, recently incipient dementia has meant that she could no longer perform in our concerts. Despite this, she managed to keep singing at our rehearsals, and it is heartening to know that she continued to enjoy singing with us until only a few weeks before her death.

Wareham Choral Society dedicates this concert to Judith's memory, as a fitting tribute to a singer who will be much missed.



Rest in Peace, Judith

Our singers this evening are:

Soprano: Jane Bailey, Eve Baker, Hazel Carter, Zoe Gover, Christine Kemp, Teresa Rekowska, Katie Ricketts.

Alto: Rachel Cude, Nancy Gibson, Janet Jones, Debs Kelly, Mary Mathers.

Tenor: Paul Cady, Andy Evans, John Lillington, Bob Newnham, Sarah Welton, Brian Wilkins.

Bass: Gideon Daly, Ian Grocott, Neil Hirst, Mark Lapper, Matthew Lewis, Malcolm Selwood.

The Four Seasons String Quartet:

Peter Castle – First violin; **Sophie Kilic** – Second violin;

Roberto Curiel – Viola; **Kathy Jackson** – Cello.

Would you like to sing with us?

We are an aspirational choir, directed by a professional musician, who enjoys working with enthusiastic singers, both trained and untrained. We enjoy the challenge of new music and are familiar with the standard choral repertoire. We have vacancies in all parts. There are no auditions, but enthusiasm and commitment are essential. We rehearse from 7:5 till 9:15 on Mondays

We'd love to hear from you!

warehamchoral@gmail.com 01202 632678

WELCOME

A SEASON TO SING

All music by Vivaldi arranged by Joanna Forbes L'Estrange, except as noted in individual sections below. Texts are from a selection of bible passages, hymn texts and poems.

A Time to Dance Music by Joanna Forbes L'Estrange

SPRING

Welcome Spring

Music, Sweet Music

To the Bagpipe's Sound

SUMMER

Sing CuCu!

Trees Lending Shelter

Summer Storm

AUTUMN

Song of Harvest

Falling Autumn Leaves

Make a Joyful Noise

WINTER

Winter Freeze

Cosy Indoors (while outside it pours)

While Earth Remaineth

A Time of Peace Music by Joanna Forbes L'Estrange

INTERVAL

Refreshments served at the back of the church - donations welcome!

The Four Seasons Quartet: Largo from Violin Concerto in G minor RV 317
transcribed for string quartet by Maurizio Machella

The Four Seasons Quartet: Concerto in G major RV 151 “Alla Rustica” (Presto,
Adagio, Allegro)

VIVALDI'S GLORIA

Gloria

Gloria in excelsis Deo *Glory to God in the highest.*

Et in terra pax hominibus

Et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis *And on earth peace to men of good will.*

Laudamus te

Laudamus te, benedicimus te, adoramus te, glorificamus te *We praise you, we bless you, We adore you, we glorify you.*

Gratias agimus tibi

Gratias agimus tibi.. *We give you thanks..*

Propter magnam gloriam

..Propter magnam gloriam tuam *..for your great glory.*

Domine Deus

Domine Deus, Rex caelestis, Deus Pater omnipotens *Lord God, King of Heaven, God the Father Almighty.*

Domine Fili Unigenite

Domine Fili unigenite, Jesu Christe *Lord, only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ.*

Domini Deus, Agnus Dei

Domine Deus, Agnus Dei Filius Patris, Rex caelestis, Domine Fili unigenite qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis *O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, heavenly King, only-begotten Son, who takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.*

Qui tollis peccata mundi

Qui tollis peccata mundi, *You who takest away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. You who*

suscipe deprecationem nostram	<i>takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer.</i>
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Qui sedes ad dexteram

Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris, miserere nobis	<i>Who sittest at the right hand of the Father, have mercy upon us.)</i>
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Quoniam tu solus Sanctus

Quoniam tu solus Sanctus, tu solus Dominus, tu solus Altissimus, Jesu Christe	<i>For you alone are holy, you alone are Lord, You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ</i>
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Cum Sancto Spiritu

Cum Sancto Spiritu in gloria Dei Patris. Amen	<i>With the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father. Amen</i>
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A Season to Sing is **Joanna Forbes L'Estrange's** largest choral work to date. It



is a choral re-imagining of Vivaldi's violin concerti *The Four Seasons*, first published 300 years ago. *A Season to Sing* enhances the music's programmatic intent by weaving into the well-loved melodies texts from poetry and the Bible on the subject of spring, summer, autumn and winter.

Joanna is a British vocalist and choral composer whose career began with seven years as music director of the Swingle Singers. Her mission is to create a body of tuneful, singable, well-crafted music which every choir can enjoy performing.

Antonio Vivaldi's *Gloria* is one of the most enduring choral works of the Baroque era. It showcases the vibrancy and spiritual expressiveness of Vivaldi's sacred style. It was composed around 1715, during Vivaldi's time at the Ospedale della Pietà in Venice, an institution for orphaned and illegitimate girls where Vivaldi served as music director.

The *Gloria* is set in twelve short movements, and is a joyful and richly varied setting of the traditional Latin Mass text, from the radiant opening "Gloria in Excelsis Deo" to the contemplative "Domine Deus" and the exuberant final "Cum Sancto Spiritu", Vivaldi alternates between full choral splendour and intimate solo passages. The work demonstrates his gift for melody, dramatic contrasts, and rhythmic vitality, all hallmarks of the Venetian Baroque.

Antonio Lucio Vivaldi (1678 –1741) was an Italian composer, violinist, impresario of Baroque music and Roman Catholic priest.

His influence during his lifetime was widespread across Europe, giving rise to many imitators and admirers.

Vivaldi composed many instrumental concerti, for the violin and other instruments, as well as sacred choral works and more than fifty operas.

His best-known work is, of course, *The Four Seasons*, which forms the basis of *A Season to Sing*, but we shall also hear 2 pieces from our string quartet this evening.

Hazel Ricketts studied music at the University of Surrey, with piano as her first instrument, and gained her MA in Musicology from the University of Southampton. She has sung in choirs since the age of 6, and started accompanying them and leading occasional rehearsals at the age of 14. During her MA she was appointed Director of Music at Holy Trinity Church in Fareham, and has been regularly conducting choirs ever since.



She also plays the clarinet, and in recent years has rediscovered the organ – most recently studying with John Challenger (Salisbury Cathedral). She has been Musical Director of Wareham Choral Society since 2018. She is also co-Director of Music at St Mary's Church Fordingbridge where she both plays the organ and conducts the choir, as well as making musical links beyond the church.

Paul Ellis (organ) studied at Manchester University and the Royal Northern College of Music, where his tutors included Gillian Weir (organ) and Robert Elliott (harpsichord). He is an experienced organ recitalist, giving performances across the UK and in the USA and in Paris, along with regular recitals in Sherborne Abbey. Paul developed a love of choral music whilst at university and has conducted choirs ever since. He has worked with many choirs in the South West and earned a reputation for high standards of performance and innovative programming. Choirs with which Paul has worked over the years include the Grange Choral Society, Taunton Camerata, Sherborne School Music Society and East Cornwall Bach Choir.



Beatrice Maloney (soprano) has sung all her life and started her formal musical education through Salisbury Cathedral as a girl chorister

Beatrice is once again singing regularly at Salisbury Cathedral as a member of the Cathedral Chamber Choir. She is most at home with religious works where she can be an instrument of prayer and she finds singing her most expressive way to pray and channel her worship and faith.



Mariah Beswick (alto) was educated at South Wilts Grammar School in Salisbury, where she was part of the a capella choir under Elizabeth Poppleton and later Chris Fay. Mariah went on to become the music prefect, and in 2023 won the David Spencer prize for Vocal Studies. She has since performed solos in Mozart's Coronation Mass, Schubert's Mass in G, and Britten's Ceremony of Carols. As part of Salisbury Cathedral Chamber Choir, Mariah can often be found singing evensong. Mariah balances her love of music with a career in accountancy.



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