



Royal Albert Hall
11-12 January 1975

General Manager Anthony J. Charlton



National Federation of Music Societies
National Choral Competition
in association with
British Rail and Grand Metropolitan Hotels

25p

Introduction

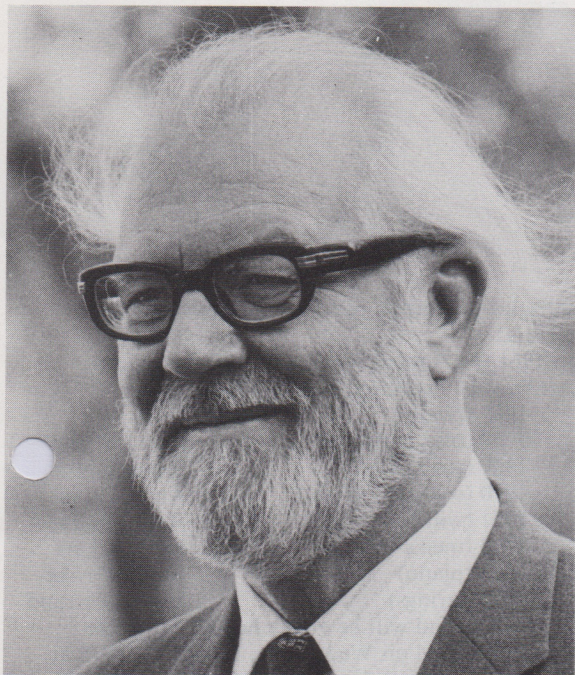
The National Choral Competition is the latest venture of the National Federation of Music Societies. It has been made possible by the generous assistance provided by British Rail and Grand Metropolitan Hotels Ltd. The committee responsible for musical decisions consists of Ken Blakeley, Ron Dyer, Peter Gellhorn, Sir Charles Groves, Monica Morland and David Willcocks. The choice of the set works was made easy due to the co-operation of music publishers in supplying copies of suitable works. The committee was unanimous in its final selection which includes works by three living British composers. NACCOM 74 included works by three other living British composers, and we consider that performances of such works are a vital part of any national competition.

The Federation is grateful to the adjudicators, Peter Gellhorn, Ivor Keys, William Mathias, Frederick Rimmer, David Willcocks and Stephen Wilkinson; to the official accompanists Alan Harverson, Richard Popplewell and Vivian Troon; and to Gordon Jacob for kindly making an arrangement for brass ensemble and organ of works by Handel and Parry to be performed in the concert. Finally our thanks are due to Sir Charles Groves, the President of the Federation, for his unflinching enthusiasm and support for all our activities.



Mrs Jeremy Thorpe

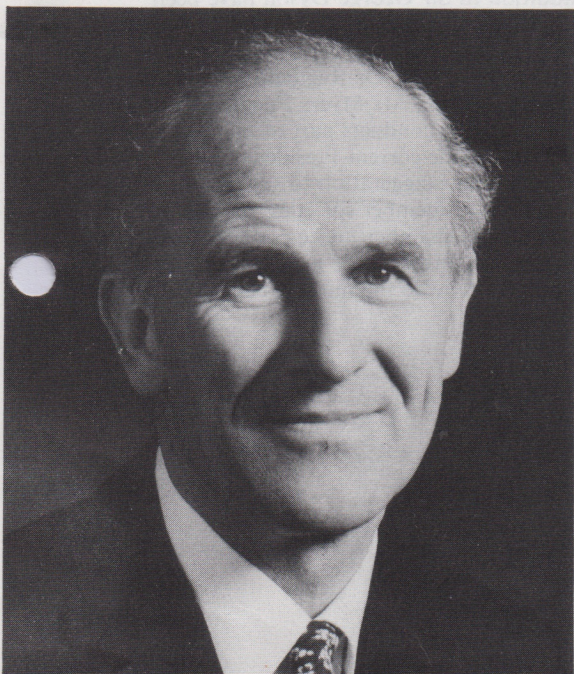
Patron



Sir Charles Groves

President

Sir Charles Groves CBE, President of the National Federation of Music Societies, has achieved eminence in many fields of music. After appointments with the BBC, including a term as conductor of the BBC Northern Orchestra, which brought him into contact with the vigorous tradition of northern choral singing, he spent ten years as conductor of the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra (and Municipal Choir). Following a long connexion with Welsh National Opera, he became its Director of Music; two years later he was appointed conductor of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, a post he has held for eleven years. In his encouragement of young musicians, he is particularly interested in advancing the work of talented composers and conductors.



David Willcocks

Adjudicator

David Willcocks has been Musical Director of The Bach Choir since 1960. After early musical training as a chorister at Westminster Abbey, he won scholarships to Clifton College and King's College, Cambridge, becoming a Fellow of King's College in 1947. He was successively Organist of the Cathedrals of Salisbury and Worcester before returning to Cambridge, where from 1957 to 1973 he was Fellow and Director of Music at King's College, Conductor of the Cambridge University Musical Society, and a University Lecturer. In recent years he has conducted concerts in many parts of Europe, and in U.S.A., Canada, Japan and Africa. He has made numerous recordings with The Bach Choir, King's College Choir and leading British orchestras. In April 1974 he became Director of the Royal College of Music.

National Federation of Music Societies

The Federation was founded in 1935 at the instigation of Dr George Dyson (its first President) and the Incorporated Society of Musicians. Many professional artists had found great difficulty in obtaining engagements during the depression of the 1930's, because music societies had little money to spend. Since the formation of the NFMS, various bodies have provided funds to help it to achieve its objects, which are to maintain, improve and advance education by promoting the art and practice and the public performance of music throughout the United Kingdom and other countries. Funds are currently provided by the Arts Council of Great Britain and the Scottish Arts Council, for distribution among societies in England and Scotland respectively, to enable them to engage professional artists whom they might not otherwise be able to afford, with a view to improving the standard of their public concerts. (NFMS societies in Wales are supported indirectly by the Welsh Arts Council through the Welsh Amateur Music Federation.)

There are now over 1,100 affiliated societies, roughly divided into 650 choral societies, 200 orchestral societies and 250 music clubs. In 1974/75 the 750 societies which have applied for financial aid will be spending about £710,000 on professional musicians' fees while giving 3,500 concerts to audiences totalling over a million. The amount of aid, in the form of a guarantee against loss, offered to each of the applicants is on average about 17 per cent of their professional expenditure. There are however wide divergences from this average, depending mainly on the quality of programme and standard of artist engaged.

Facilities offered to member-societies include insurance cover, and cover against payment of performing right fees on works in the repertoire of the Performing Right Society. Both these schemes involve block payments by the Federation on behalf of its members, who pay to the Federation considerably smaller sums than those that would be required if the cover was negotiated individually.

The Federation also provides societies with facilities for borrowing music from each other; the hire-charge for this service is nominal. An annual course, with professional tutors, is held for society conductors. Interest-free loans are available to

societies wishing to purchase or renovate grand pianos.

In 1961 the Annual Award for Young Concert Artists was instituted. Recent winners are:

1967 (piano)	Enloc Wu
1968 (bass baritone)	Richard Ango
1969 (strings)	Susan Drake
1970 (women's voices)	Anne Collins
1971 (wind)	Roger Fallows
1972 (men's voices)	Neil Jenkins
1973 (piano)	Philip Fowke
1974 (strings)	Emma Ferrand

Emma Ferrand will be giving her NFMS prize-winner's recital on Wednesday, March 19, 1975 at the Wigmore Hall, London.

The Federation has always been most fortunate in obtaining the services of a distinguished musician as the President. Past holders of the office in addition to Sir George Dyson have been Dr Ralph Vaughan Williams, the Earl of Shaftesbury, Sir Thomas Beecham, Sir Malcolm Sargent, Sir Adrian Boult, Dr Reginald Jacques, Sir Thomas Armstrong and Mr Myers Foggin. Sir Charles Groves, who conducts part of the NACCOM concert, is the current President.

It is not an exaggeration to say that but for the activities of member societies, the number of public choral and chamber music concerts throughout Great Britain would be greatly reduced. These concerts provide the musical back-bone of the country.



Peter Gellhorn

Adjudicator

Born in Germany, where he trained as pianist and conductor, Peter Gellhorn came to England at the age of 23. His earliest conducting appointments here were with Sadler's Wells, Carl Rosa, and the Royal Opera House. From 1954 to 1961 he was Conductor and Chorus Master at Glyndebourne (whose staff he rejoined in 1974), and Director of the BBC Chorus from 1961 to 1972, appearing regularly at the Proms. He has made countless appearances as pianist, whether alone or in chamber music and with singers, and has conducted at Ledlanet (opera) and in Germany and Italy. His compositions include a work commissioned in 1972 by Richmond Arts Council, under the Arts Council's scheme of awards to artists.



Ivor Keys

Adjudicator

Ivor Keys was born at Littlehampton, Sussex, in 1919. He went to the 'Bluecoat School' of Christ's Hospital where his musical education thrived to such an extent that he took his Fellowship of the Royal College of Organists at the age of 14. His period as Music Scholar and Cathedral Sub-Organist at Christ Church, Oxford was interrupted by war service. After taking his DMus at Oxford he went to Queen's University, Belfast in 1947 to direct the music there. In 1951 he was made the first Hamilton Harty Professor of Music. In 1954 he came to the new Chair of Music in Nottingham which afforded him a busy life as impresario, composer, solo executant, teacher, conductor and occasional journalist, which since 1968 he has continued as Professor of Music at Birmingham University.



William Mathias

Adjudicator

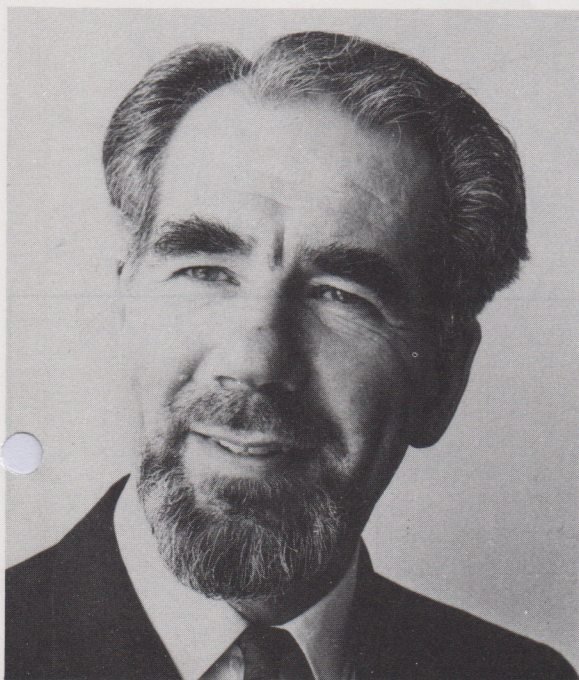
William Mathias is currently Professor and Head of the Department of Music at the University College of North Wales, Bangor. His compositions (choral music forming an integral part) are widely performed and broadcast in this country and abroad, and a rapidly increasing number are available on disc. He is frequently active as a conductor and pianist, is the Artistic Director of the North Wales Music Festival and a member both of the Welsh Arts Council and of the Music Advisory Committee of the British Council. His recent large-scale choral/orchestral work 'This Worlde's Joie' (commissioned by the 1974 Fishguard Festival) will be given its first London performance by the Bach Choir at the Royal Festival Hall in May 1975.



Frederick Rimmer

Adjudicator

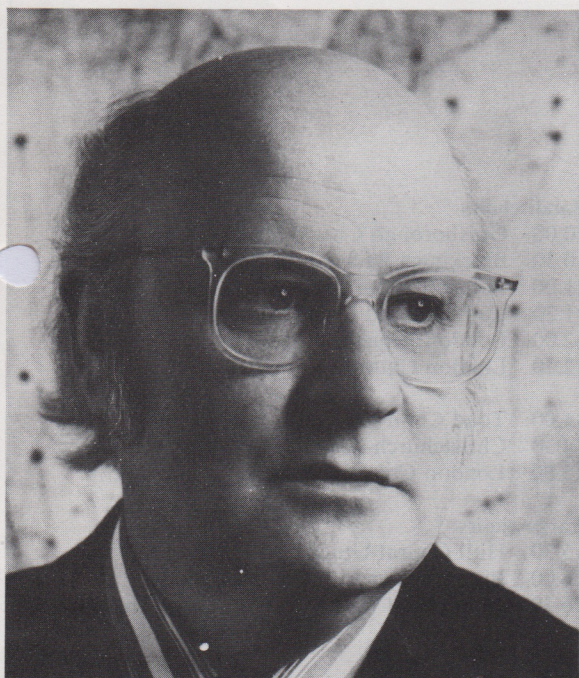
Frederick Rimmer was appointed Gardiner Professor of Music and Head of the Department of Music in the University of Glasgow in 1966. His first appointment in this university was as Cramb Lecturer in 1951. From 1956 to 1965 he was Senior Lecturer in Music, University Organist and Director of the Chapel Choir. His published work is mostly concerned with aspects of twentieth century music: his organ and choral compositions show keen interest in writing adventurously for church worship. He is Director of the Scottish Music Archive (since its foundation in 1968), a Director of Scottish Opera, Chairman of the BBC's Scottish Music Advisory Committee and a member of the British Council's Music Committee.



Stephen Wilkinson

Adjudicator

Stephen Wilkinson has been a member of the BBC music staff since 1953, and was at one time Director of the Hertfordshire, Rural Music School. He has conducted the BBC Northern Singers since 1962. He studied music at Christ Church Cathedral Choir School, Oxford, first under Noel Ponsoy and then under W. H. Harris. While at St Edward's School, Oxford he studied composition with Thomas Armstrong and wrote music for school plays. At Queen's College, Cambridge, where he was organ scholar and read music and English, he was secretary of the University music club. He studied harpsichord under Boris Ord and played continuo for Cambridge University Music Society.



Alan Harverson

Accompanist

Alan Harverson, born in Ireland of English parents, studied at the Royal Academy of Music. He has broadcast on BBC and continental networks in a wide range of programmes, and has taken part in the Festivals of Aldeburgh, Bath, Salisbury, The Lakes, North Wales and the City of London. Particularly associated with the BBC Symphony Orchestra, he has appeared with them, as soloist, here at the Royal Albert Hall, at the Royal Festival Hall and at Westminster Abbey. For very many years he has played with them at the last night of the Proms. A professor of organ at the RAM, Alan Harverson was chosen to teach both organ and piano in the BBC series 'Spare Time for Music' and has given lectures and master-classes at the Summer School for the Classical Organ at New College, Oxford and at Queen's University, Belfast.

Competition and choirs

Saturday 11 January

Small choirs

Adjudicators: Peter Gellhorn Frederick Rimmer
Stephen Wilkinson

Set works:

Dusk (from *Three London Songs*) Bryan Kelly
Hark, hark! the lark John Gardner
Under the greenwood tree
How happy is he born and taught
(from *Seven Songs*)
The little newborn Jesus child Buxtehude

Large choirs

Adjudicators: Ivor Keys William Mathias
David Willcocks

Set works:

The fire of heaven Geoffrey Burgon
Offertorium Bruckner
Ecce sacerdos Bruckner

Choirs were also asked to prepare works of their own choice: details are given on the appropriate page.

Small choirs

- 10.00 Guisborough Choral Society
- 10.30 Blackburn Bach Choir
- 11.00 Putney Choral Society
- 11.30 Cumbernauld Choral Group
- 12.00 London Ripieno Society
- 12.30 London Chorale

- 14.00 Toad Choir
- 14.30 Christchurch (Enfield) Choral Society
- 15.00 London Concord Singers

Large choirs

- 15.30 Hull Choral Union
- 16.00 Bishopwearmouth Choral Society
- 16.30 John Bate Choir of Richmond & Putney

Small choirs

- 17.00 St Albans Chamber Choir
- 17.30 Reading Bach Choir
- 18.00 Thame Choral Society

Concert

Sunday, 12 January, 15.00

Conductors: Sir Charles Groves David Willcocks

Massed choirs:

I was glad when they said unto me Parry arr. Gordon Jacob

Small choirs

<i>The little newborn Jesus child</i>	Buxtehude
<i>Dusk (from Three London Songs)</i>	Bryan Kelly
<i>Hark, hark! the lark</i>	John Gardner
<i>Under the greenwood tree</i>	
<i>How happy is he born and taught</i>	
(from <i>Seven Songs</i>)	

Own choice works by winning small choir

INTERVAL

Presentation of prizes by Lady Groves

Large choirs:

<i>The fire of heaven</i>	Geoffrey Burgon
<i>Offertorium</i>	Bruckner
<i>Ecce sacerdos</i>	Bruckner

Own choice works by winning large choir

Massed choirs:

<i>Worthy is the Lamb</i>	Handel arr. Gordon Jacob
<i>Amen (Messiah)</i>	



Richard Popplewell

Accompanist

Richard Popplewell was organ scholar of King's College Cambridge, where as chorister he had received his first organ lessons from David Willcocks. While studying as an organ scholar at the Royal College of Music he was appointed Assistant Organist of St Paul's Cathedral, a post he held for eight years until his appointment as Director of Music at St Michael's, Cornhill, seven years ago. He is also professor at the Royal College and organist to the Bach Choir. He has been associated with leading orchestras and conductors, has appeared at the Proms, has given hundreds of recitals and broadcasts, and has toured on the continent and in Canada.



Vivian Troon

Accompanist

Vivian Troon was born in Rosyth, Scotland, and showed an early aptitude for music. After preliminary studies at the Walker Cameron Pianoforte School, Edinburgh, he won a Caird Scholarship and came to the Royal Academy of Music, London, to study piano with John Pauer and composition with Lennox Berkeley and Howard Ferguson. In the course of his career he has fulfilled numerous concert and broadcasting engagements all over Great Britain and Ireland, in many European countries, and in the United States. He specialises in chamber music and ensemble playing and is Principal Keyboard Player of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

Words of Set Works

from **Three London Songs**

Dusk

Rain on the river, and this hour of dusk
Settling slowly, imposingly, on London
As though its greatest shopwalker has died
Like a pianist about to play Busoni,
Hands resting in waxen contemplation
In white cuffs quietly upon his knees,
And women, weeping pearls, are gathered now
In Bond Street as the black discreet cortege
Rumbles slowly down to Piccadilly.
Rain on the river, and this hour of dusk
Settling on a city inventive of pleasure,
Secure in pleasure, in its terrible, terrible pleasure.

(John Fuller)

Printed by kind permission of Novello and Company
Limited

from **Seven Songs**

Hark, hark! the lark

Hark, hark! the lark at heaven's gate sings,
And Phoebus 'gins arise,
His steeds to water at those springs
On chalic'd flowers that lies;
And winking Marybuds begin
To ope their golden eyes;
With ev'rything that pretty bin:
My lady sweet, arise.

(Shakespeare)

Under the greenwood tree

Under the greenwood tree,
Who loves to lie with me
And turn his merry note
Unto the sweet bird's throat
Come hither, come hither, come hither!
Here shall he see
No enemy
But winter and rough weather.
Who doth ambition shun
And loves to live i' the sun,
Seeking the food he eats,
And pleased with that he gets
Come hither, come hither, come hither!

(Shakespeare)

How happy is he born and taught

How happy is he born and taught
That serveth not another's will:
Whose armour is his honest thought
And simple truth his utmost skill!

Bryan Kelly

Whose passions not his masters are,
Whose soul is still prepared for death,
Untied unto the world by care
Of public fame, or private breath;
Who envies none that chance doth raise
Nor vice; who never understood
How deepest wounds are given by praise;
Nor rules of state, but rules of good:
Who hath his life from rumours freed;
Whose conscience is his strong retreat;
Whose state can neither flatterers feed,
Nor ruin make oppressors great;

Who God doth late and early pray
More of His grace than gifts to lend;
And entertains the harmless day
With a religious book or friend;

This man is freed from servile bands
Of hope to rise, or fear to fall;
Lord of himself, though not of lands;
And having nothing, yet hath all.

(Wotton)

Reprinted by kind permission of Oxford University Press

The little newborn Jesus child

Buxtehude

The little newborn Jesus Child,
The most beloved babe so mild
Brings once again a joyous tide
To ev'ry Christian far and wide.

With joyful hearts the angels sing,
They hover o'er and praises bring,
And angels fill the sky with song,
For God and man are reconciled.

If God forgives and is our friend,
What can the wicked foe portend?
In spite of world, devil, and gates of hell,
Lord Jesus is our saving grace.

He brings the wondrous jubilee,
What sorrow can we then foresee?
Arise, it is now time to sing,
The Holy Child great joy doth bring!

(English text by Melinda Edwards)

Reprinted by kind permission of Roberton Publications

Words of Set Works

The fire of Heaven

All appeared new and strange at first, inexpressibly rare and delightful and beautiful. I seemed as one brought into the estate of innocence. All things were spotless and pure and glorious and joyful and precious. Yea, and infinitely mine. I know not that there were any sins or complaints or dreamed not of poverties contentions or vices. All tears and quarrels were hidden from mine eyes. Ev'rything was at rest, free and immortal. Heaven and earth did sing my creator's praises and could not make more melody to Adam than to me. All time was eternity and a perpetual Sabbath.

The Riches of Darkness are those which men have made during their ignorance of God Almighty's treasures that lead us from the love of all to labour and contention, discontentment and vanity. The works of darkness are repining envy, malice, covetousness, fraud, oppression, discontent and violence all which proceed from the corruption of men and their mistake in the choice of riches for having refused those which God made and taken to themselves treasures of their own; they invented scarce and rare, insufficient hard to be gotten, little movable and useless treasures, yet as violently pursue them as if they were the most necessary and excellent things in the whole world. And though they are all mad, yet having made a combination, they seem wise and it is a hard matter to persuade them to truth or reason, there seemeth to be no way

Geoffrey Burgon

but theirs, whereas God knoweth they are as far out of the ways of his happiness as the east is from the west. For by this means they have let in broils and dissatisfactions into the world and are ready to eat and devour one another. Particular and feeble interests, insatiable longings, fraud, emulation, murmuring and dissension being ev'rywhere seen; theft and pride and danger and cousenage, envy and contention drowning the peace and beauty of nature as the waters cover the sea. O how they are ready to sink always under the burden and cumber of devised wants. Verily the prospect of their ugly errors is able to turn one's stomach, they are so hideous and deformed the Riches of Darkness. You never enjoy the world aright 'til the sea itself floweth in your veins 'til you are clothed with the heavens and crowned with the stars and perceive yourself to be the sole heir of the whole world and more then so because men are in it who are ev'ry one sole heirs as well as you. 'Til you are intimately acquainted with that shady nothing out of which the world was made, you never enjoy the world aright 'til your spirit filleth the whole world and the stars are your jewels, 'til you love men so as to desire their happiness with a thirst equal to the zeal of your own.

(Thomas Traherne)

Reprinted by kind permission of Stainer and Bell Limited

Offertorium (Psalm 45: 14-15)

Bruckner

Afferentur regi virgines post eam: proximae ejus afferentur tibi in laetitia et exultatione: adducentur in templum regi Domino.

After her shall virgins be brought to the King: her neighbours shall be brought to Thee. With gladness and joy shall they be brought; they shall enter the King's palace.

Ecce sacerdos (Ecclesiasticus 43: 16, 27)

Bruckner

Ecce sacerdos magnus, qui in diebus suis placuit Deo. Ideo jurejurando fecit illum Dominus crescere in plebem suam. Benedictionem omnium gentium dedit illi, et testamentum suum confirmavit super caput ejus.

Behold a great priest, who in his days pleased God. Therefore by an oath the Lord made him increase among his people. He gave him the blessing of all nations, and confirmed his covenant upon his head.

Gloria Patri et Filio et Spiritui Sancto, sicut erat in principio et nunc et semper et in saecula saeculorum. Amen.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Reprinted by kind permission of Edition Peters

Saturday, January 11th

10.00 Guisborough Choral Society

Conductor: Celia Matthews

The Choir was formed in May 1967 by a small group of enthusiasts and, in March 1968, Celia Matthews was invited to conduct.

The Choir won its first competition in May 1968 and since has won several more at Teesdale Tournament of Song, Harrogate and Stockton Festivals, competing at NACCOM 74 where the choir was placed joint first with the London Chorale.

The Choir performs three major concerts each year in North Yorkshire and Cleveland. Its repertoire includes oratorios, canatas and part songs ranging from the 16th to 20th centuries.

weelkes

Gloria in Excelsis

Vaughan Williams

The Lovers Ghost

10.30 Blackburn Bach Choir

Conductor: John Bertalot

Blackburn Bach Choir was formed in 1965 by its present conductor, John Bertalot, Master of Choristers at Blackburn Cathedral.

It has 34 members and a wide ranging repertoire of sacred and secular music, mediaeval to modern, mainly unaccompanied.

The Choir won the BBC 'Let the Peoples sing' competition for mixed voices in 1968 and 1969 and represented Great Britain in the International Competition.

Once a year the Choir presents a concert with orchestra in Blackburn Cathedral; recent programmes including Liturgia Domestica by Gretchaninof, Magnificat by J. S. Bach, Requiem by Durufle, Serenade to Music by Vaughan Williams, and Messe Solonelle by Louis Vierne. The Choir travels widely giving concerts of shorter unaccompanied music, part songs, madrigals, motets, etc.

Palestrina *Kyrie (Missa Papae Marcelli)*

11.00 Putney Choral Society

Conductor: Stephen Rhys

The Choir was formed in 1950 and has performed many works from the standard repertoire.

Putney often combines with two other choirs under one conductor and performs in Southwark Cathedral.

Later in 1975 the Society proposes to go to Holland on a short concert tour.

Kodály *Jesus and the traders*

11.30 Cumbernauld Choral Group

Conductor: James Duncan

The Group was founded ten years ago by a small group of enthusiasts who met in the then embryonic Cottage Theatre of Cumbernauld New Town.

Since that time it has grown with the town to its present membership of 64 singers and has established a background of experience including numerous successes at music festivals, radio broadcasts and regular choral concerts in Cumbernauld and the West of Scotland.

Under its conductor, James Duncan, the Choir has built up a repertoire of secular and sacred music and has performed major works including Coleridge Taylor's *Hiawatha's Wedding Feast*, Handel's *Messiah* and the Brahms *Liebeslieder Opus 52*.

Bruckner

Christus factus est

G. Thorpe-Davie

Quodlibet

12.00 London Ripieno Singers

Conductor: Geoffrey Hanson

The Society was founded by Geoffrey Hanson in the Autumn of 1964. The first performance by the Society was given in December 1964 in a new church in Morden, Surrey as part of its consecration festivities.

Since then the Society has given regular performances both in London and the Provinces. It has been responsible for the first English performances of Baroque and modern music and has taken part in several Camden festivals.

Geoffrey Hanson *Te Deum Laudamus*
Vecchi *Cantate Domino*

14.00 Toad Choir

Conductor: Ian McCrorie

The Toad Choir of Greenock, in Scotland, was formed ten years ago by a group of young people who had found great pleasure singing together annually in a local church at Christmas.

The Choir's repertoire is now fairly extensive and a substantial part of most concerts is given to contemporary music. The Toads (named after a mascot of a toad in evening dress complete with baton) have appeared regularly on radio and television, being well known on Songs of Praise, and have recently made two records.

Sidney Campbell *Fanfare for Michaelmas Day*
Orlando Gibbons *Hosanna to the Son of David*
Nicholas Maw *Five Epigrams*

12.30 The London Chorale

Conductor: Roy Wales

Formed in 1963 by Roy Wales, the London Chorale consists of young people studying and working in London. They were UK winners in the 1973 BBC Let the Peoples, Sing competition and joint winners of NACCOM 74.

In addition to performing in all the major concert halls in London, the Choir has toured extensively, including the USA and USSR.

It has given first performances of works by Bernstein, Copland, Kodály and Tate and will be giving the first UK performance of Patterson's *Kennedy Requiem* in their current season.

Jan Krenz *Wesola*
Kodály *Jesus and the traders*

14.30 Christchurch (Enfield) Choral Society

Conductor: Peter Nelson

This Society was formed in 1938. During our 36 years we have been fortunate in having only seven conductors, including our present conductor, Peter Nelson. Under his direction, the Society has achieved even higher standards of performance. Weekly rehearsals are held except for the month of August and we now present four concerts annually in which a wide variety of music is presented, including the standard oratorios and works by 20th century composers. It is a proud tradition that members audition for solo parts and the Society is usually able to provide its own soloists.

Charles Gounod *By Babylon's Wave (Psalm 137)*

15.00 London Concord Singers

Conductor: Clive Wearing

The London Concord Singers was formed in 1966. It seeks to maintain a small, well-knit group of some 30 voices, performing a wide range of choral music. Its members come from a great variety of backgrounds.

The Choir is much-travelled throughout England and has been to the Continent on two occasions, winning a first prize at the International Choral Festival in Montreux in 1967 and, in 1970, singing at the Dubrovnik Summer Festival.

During 1974 the Choir had the distinction of appearing in all three South Bank Concert Halls as well as St John's, Smith Square, under the principal conductor, Malcolm Cottle.

Choral dances from *Gloriana Nos*
1, 2, 3 and 6

15.30 Hull Choral Union

Conductor: Peter Goodman

The Hull Choral Union was founded in 1929, the result of the amalgamation of Hull Vocal Society – established in 1850 with Hull Harmonic Society – established in 1843. Since then it has presented without interruption its season's programmes, chiefly of oratorios, classics and modern works, and his recently included carols party.

The Choir has sung under the baton of Sir Malcolm Sargent and Sir Arthur Bliss and has included Kathleen Ferrier and Heddle Nash amongst its soloists.

The Society looks forward to continued success under its newly-appointed conductor, Peter Goodman, who is also Hull's City Organist and is often heard on BBC radio and television.

William Byrd *This day Christ was born*
Benjamin Britten *Ballad of Green Broom*

16.00 Bishopswearmouth Choral Society

Conductor: Keith Trehitt

The choir was formed in 1947 in the Bishopswearmouth parish, of Sunderland by Mr Clifford Hartley, its honorary conductor until his retirement in May 1974.

It has about 100 members who rehearse weekly from September till May and performs two concerts each season, at which professional soloists and orchestras are engaged.

The Society is non-profit making and draws its support from Sunderland and the surrounding area and has performed most of the major works by Bach, Handel, Haydn, Brahms and Verdi as well as works by Elgar, Vaughan Williams and Britten.

Brahms *How lovely are thy dwellings (Requiem)*

16.30 John Bate Choir of Richmond and Putney

Conductor: John Bate

This was formed in 1964 as two choirs – Richmond Choral Society and Putney Bach Choir (under Richmond Adult College and Putney Adult Education Institute respectively). Regular Concerts feature professional orchestras and international soloists.

In 1966 Richmond Choral Society won Christian Aid Week National Choirs Competition and in 1974 were large choir winners of NACCOM.

In May 1974 the two groups amalgamated into one choir under their present name.

Bach *Crucifixus (B minor mass)*

17.00 St. Albans Chamber Choir

Conductor: Richard Stangroom

The Choir was founded in the early 1960s by John Rose with the object of studying and performing music rarely found in the choral society repertoire.

Over the years such works as Stravinsky's *Mass*, Copland's *In the Beginning*, Dufay's *L'Homme Arme Mass* and Britten's *Canata Misericordium* have been performed along with many works from Baroque and Renaissance periods.

The Choir has given concerts in various parts of the country, including the Queen Elizabeth Hall, and has paid two visits to Germany.

Parry *At the round Earth's imagined corners*
Messiaen *O Sacrum Convivium*

17.30 Reading Bach Choir

Conductor: Julian Williamson

Founded in 1966, the Reading Bach Choir is a body of singers working to the highest standards of musicianship. Members, limited to 50, are re-auditioned annually.

Two major concerts a year are organised in conjunction with a professional chamber orchestra, plus one or two concerts of unaccompanied music, or music accompanied by organ or small instrumental ensemble. Professional soloists are engaged.

In 1972 the Choir took part in the Windsor Festival under Yehudi Menuhin's baton.

Krzysztof Penderecki *Stabat Mater*

18.00 Thame Choral Society

Conductor: William J Gilbert

The Society sprang from a get-together of about a dozen singers in 1960.

Two years later they became a class at the local evening centre and were known as Thame Choral Group. In 1964, when 30 strong, the present conductor, W. J. Gilbert, took over and the Choir was renamed Thame Choral Society.

Since then the choir has taken part each year in the performance by Oxfordshire Choirs of a major work in the Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford.

In addition, the Society, in company with another small choir, has performed the following:

Hiawatha, Elijah, Messiah, Creation, Petite Messe Solonnelle, St Nicolas, Samson, Gloria (Vivaldi) and *Requiem* (Mozart).

Vivaldi *Quonium*
Cum Santa Spiritu (Gloria)

SPECIAL INTEREST WEEKENDS

ARCHERY
ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE
BIRDWATCHING
BRIDGE
FISHING
GHOSTS
PAINTING

Throughout the UK and
on the Continent

Details from: Special Events
7 Stratford Place
London W1A 4YU
Tel: 629 6618 Ext. 221