

Three Male Voice Choirs in Concert

TEWKESBURY ABBEY

Saturday October 2nd, 7pm

with

**Hereford Police,
Churchdown and**

Worcester Male Voice Choirs

With guest brass ensemble Curzon Brass

**Supporting the
Midlands Air Ambulance Charity**



Welcome



A warm welcome from myself Ray Williams, Chairman of HPMVC and the Organising Committee of the three male voice choirs in concert. This concert from the outset has been a collaboration between the choirs from the three counties and was the original idea of the late Bob Harkins, Vice President and ex Chairman of Worcester Male Voice Choir and the Deputy Conductor of the Worcester Male Voice Choir, Haydn Thomas, who wished to show case the strength of male voice choirs in the area. The idea, that this would be a regular feature of the choir calendar. Alan Simmonds who is the ex-chairman and vice president of Worcester Male voice choir and Hereford Police choir member has been able to push this concert forward in spite of all the issues of Covid 19.

This will be the first major concert for all three choirs, since the start of lockdown. For many we have missed the audience and the singing and we will entertain you all with a varied programme of traditional male voice choir music, together as a massed choir and individually. We also have the added bonus of Curzon Brass who have delighted audiences across the Midlands for years.

A big thank you must go out to all patrons and supporters from all the choirs and in particular the Hereford Police Choir for taking a lead in the organisation for the concert, the Abbey for their support and the musical directors of each choir. We are honoured to have the various city and council members from all three counties attending.

We are delighted to support the air ambulance particularly as this charity extends across the three counties and has played a vital part in the emergency care in the area. Please give generously to the buckets at the end of the concert and thank you for your attendance today

Hopefully you will attend concerts from all three choirs in the run up to Christmas.



Hereford Police Male Voice Choir



Formed in 1957 when the Herefordshire Constabulary celebrated its centenary, a dozen officers, led by Brian Williams MBE, formed a choir to sing at an anniversary event in Hereford Cathedral. They enjoyed it so much they kept on singing and eventually opened their ranks to men from all walks of life. Today the choir is 65 strong.

The choir has sung in some of the finest concert halls in the land, including The 26th London Welsh Festival of Male Choirs at the Royal Albert Hall. However, the Choir's big claim to fame came with their performance in the 2008 BBC1 TV show 'Last Choir Standing' which brought them world-wide acclaim. It also earned the Choir the Elgar Award for outstanding achievement and an invitation to the 2010 International Police Music Festival in Zurich.

In 2017 the Choir was invited by the Magdeburg Police Choir to join with them in a week of concerts and musical activities. For the last ten years, the choir has awarded an annual bursary to a young musician, aged 14-22 years of age, resident in Herefordshire and Worcestershire.



Churchdown Male Voice Choir

Formed in 1965 in Churchdown, Gloucestershire, the choir recently celebrated its 50th Anniversary and continues to go from strength to strength. The aims of the choir are to enjoy singing, to perform for charitable causes and to experience the comradeship and pure excitement that comes from performing in a male voice choir. Under its young music team of MD Ralph Barnes and accompanist James Quinn the choir performs numerous concerts a year raising thousands of pounds for local and national charities. The music is drawn from around the world and its repertoire includes popular songs, choruses from the operatic and musical stage, spirituals, hymns and more traditional pieces.

The choir is particularly proud of its continuing assistance to local and national charities. In recent years concerts have been given in support of Cobalt Heart Mind and Body Appeal, the local Rotary charities, Cheltenham Arts Council, and the most spectacular of all, a concert in Pittville Pump Room in March 2013 to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the charity. In June 2014 the choir hosted the English Association of Male Voice Choirs in a spectacular concert in Tewkesbury Abbey featuring over 250 male voices.

Follow us on our website and listen to recordings of some of our performances on our official YouTube channel.

Worcester Male Voice Choir



Formed and developed from the Worcester City Police Choir in the sixties, the choir has developed into a large chorus singing in cathedrals and venues all over the UK. In the last ten years the choir has sung in the Albert Hall, Colston Hall, Vernon {France}, Cornwall music festival, and prides itself as being an integral part of the Worcester city community. Central to its development has been the English association and the choir has enjoyed performances with other choirs at Birmingham symphony Hall, the Town Hall in Birmingham, The Great Hall in Birmingham University and of course Worcester Cathedral. It has developed its repertoire singing The Hallelujah chorus and songs from the show to more contemporary pieces from the USA. Over the years the choir has toured France, with the help of the twinning association, and a strong connection with

the Choeur d'Annebault. This connection has been supported by Worcester City Council

Every Christmas the concert at Pershore Abbey is packed out and the choir always contributes to local charities in particular prostate cancer, the local hospice and mental health, since its inception £200,000 has been raised. The choir welcomes the opportunity to sing with other choirs after nearly 2 years. Under the leadership of Scot Woolfenden and ably supported by James Jarvis, the accompanist, the choir is looking to cement its ties with its city and recruit as many members as possible to become part of a positive musical future in Worcester. This concert is seen to be part of this process.

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Introducing our Host Sue Wilson



I am delighted to be compering tonight's concert with three highly talented choirs and I'm very honoured to be a Vice President of one of them, Churchdown Male Voice Choir.

My involvement with them began back in the 1990s, when I was presenting daily programmes at BBC Radio Gloucestershire. I marked their 30th birthday with a feature about them on my show and they invited my husband, Pete, and myself to compeer a concert for them. I think they liked us as we got invited back to do more. In fact, we hosted concerts on their tour to Washington in 2000, where they sang with the US Army Chorus, who sing at official events at The White House, and at Washington Cathedral, and we soon became very attached to this wonderful "family".

Pete went on to join the choir as a bass and I still compeer concerts, although you're just as likely to see me serving refreshments or selling tickets on the door along with other choir wives. They are indeed a great family who love singing and socialising together and raising funds for local charities.

Biographies

Alison Houlbrooke - Musical Director BA (Hons), Dip Music (Open), Dip ABRSM Choral Directing



Alison has loved music since a very young age and started to learn to play the violin and recorder at the age of seven while at Much Birch V.C. Primary School. In her teenage years, she played in various orchestras, sang in choirs and led the County Youth Orchestra. Alison was also very fortunate in that she was sponsored by Herefordshire Council to study at Birmingham Conservatoire. Alison has also sung with various choirs and now sings with an international chamber choir 'Sine Nomine' directed by Sue Hollingworth. She is also a member of Holy Trinity Church Choir, Hereford directed by Jack Pickford.

As a qualified music teacher, Alison works freelance, both locally and further afield, as a teacher and advisor, specializing in vocal and aural work (nursery, primary and secondary). She also works as an Advisory Teacher for the Voices' Foundation in Watford, London, Northampton and Somerset.

Alison has spent nearly twenty years developing conducting and vocal skills for use both in schools and the wider community. She is delighted to be the Musical Director of the Hereford Police Male Choir, a post held since 2002. She is a member of the Association of British Choral Conductors and was awarded the diploma ABRSM in Choral Directing in 2003.

David Coulson—Secretary (HPMVC)



David studied singing at the Guildhall School of Music under Rudolph Piernay where he gained experience not only from the tuition itself but also from the opportunities of participation in opera at venues such as the Sadlers Wells Theatre. Sadly, the gig at Sadlers Wells was a non-singing role (third Roman soldier from the left) so

David joined the police.

Singing with the Metropolitan Police Choir for 6 years finally brought the opportunity to perform in some of the great London venues including Westminster Abbey, St Paul's Cathedral and the Royal Festival Hall. However, the call of his native Worcestershire was strong and so, in 1988, he transferred to the West Mercia Constabulary and the Hereford Police Choir.

Since retirement from the police and release from shift work, he has increasingly been able to perform as a soloist, giving him the opportunity to sing works such as the Mozart Requiem, Haydn's 'Creation' and Carmina Burana. He has also appeared with Worcester Opera (Sarastro in The Magic Flute), the Worcestershire Symphony Orchestra, the Orchestra of St John and the British Police Symphony Orchestra.

James Macdowell Scott- Accompanist (HPMVC)



James works as a professional musician, both as an accompanist and solo recitalist. In addition to his role with the Police Choir he is a deputy organist at both Brecon and Newport Cathedrals. He has appeared in Recital at Westminster Abbey, St Paul's Cathedral, Kings College, Cambridge and Westminster Cathedral. Future engagements include recitals at St Paul's Cathedral and Glasgow University. James holds Fellowship Diplomas with Trinity College of Music and the Performers Diploma from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

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Scott Woolfenden—Musical Director (WMVC)



Scott Woolfenden originally hails from Oldham, but now lives in Droitwich Spa with his wife Rachel and 4 children. He was accompanist for the Saddleworth Male Voice Choir from 2005 until taking that same role with WMVC in 2015. He took over

as MD of WMVC at the end of 2018 and hopes to move the choir forward in the coming months and years. He has been employed as MD for several amateur musical productions and is also involved with a Rock and Roll band where he plays both piano and trumpet. He has written arrangements for Male Voice Choir and hopes to focus more on this in the future. He enjoys all types of music and reads a lot of history. When not involved in making music in some way, Scott can be found driving a 44 tonne articulated lorry.

Ralph Barnes — Musical Director (CMVC)



Ralph has been with Churchdown Male Voice Choir since 2000 and was Assistant MD from 2003. He took over as Musical Director in 2010.

Ralph studied Music at Rendcomb College, Gloucestershire, singing for seven years in the College Choir and also performing as a soloist for many of the Choir's engagements in local churches and cathedrals. He then went to Roehampton University in London to study for a BA Hons Degree in Drama with Theatre Studies and Music, where he sang in many recitals and performed with four city choirs at venues such as The Royal Albert Hall, The Royal Festival Hall, Westminster Abbey and Westminster Cathedral.

As an orchestral conductor Ralph has directed The Young Workers Music Association Symphony Orchestra, The Belarus White Russian Army Band, The Kazakhstan Army Band and The Band of The Blues and Royals.

James Quinn ARSM — Accompanist (CMVC)



An award-winning pianist, James was self-taught from a young age before he attended school. He studied with Linda Parsons and Mary Cope.

Some of his previous teachers include Connie

Garforth, Maria Garcia and Charles Wiffen. Subsequently he read music at Bath Spa University, where he was awarded the degrees of Bachelor of Music and Master of Music in Performance.

James leads a busy career as a freelance pianist, organist, composer, arranger and conductor, with a wealth of experience as a piano teacher and accompanist. James has performed in many high-profile venues such as Gloucester, Worcester and Hereford Cathedrals, Tewkesbury and Bath Abbey



James Jarvis— Accompanist (WMVC)

James Jarvis has been the Worcester Male Voice Choir accompanist for three years, James is an accomplished pianist, and organist. Educat-

ed at Bangor University he has a Master Degree in Music. He is also a choral singer and has been a real asset to the choir bringing a music education background to the choir. Above all he brings youth and enthusiasm to all rehearsals and concerts!

Alan Simmonds—Lead Organiser

Alan Simmonds, brought up in Suffolk was a boy chorister at Peterborough and Ipswich schools.

At King Alfred's college, Winchester, where gained a B.Ed Hons in Physical Education.

Alan taught in Worcester and the West Midlands, gaining further qualifications at Masters level before working for various advisory roles in London and the Midlands. He is a member of both Hereford and Worcester Male Voice Choirs, is a Vice President of WMVC and was therefore in a unique position to lead the organising group. He is passionate about singing and sport and is a presiding magistrate in Worcestershire.

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Our Chosen Charity

Midlands Air Ambulance

Midlands Air Ambulance Charity (MAAC) operates and funds three air ambulances covering **six** Midlands counties including **Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Worcestershire** and the **West Midlands**.

Each year it costs in excess of **£10 million** to maintain the three aircraft and the provision of a lifesaving service. Each air ambulance mission costs an average of £2,500. Each critical care car or cardiac car mission costs £224 on average. The charity does not receive funding from the Government or National Lottery for its daily missions so relies entirely on the support and generosity of local people and businesses.

Since 1991, we have responded to over **63,000 missions**, making us one of the busiest air ambulance services in the UK.

We operate from strategically located regional airbases at **RAF Cosford** in Shropshire, **Strensham** in Worcestershire and **Tatenhill** in Staffordshire. Each aircraft carries a crew comprising a pilot, two paramedics or a paramedic and flight doctor, plus full life-support medical equipment. Three rapid response vehicles are deployed when the helicopters are unable to fly, due to bad weather for example.



Curzon Brass Ensemble

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CURZON
BRASS

Curzon Brass are a Brass Quintet which formed in 2016 made up of students from the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire. Its players originate from all corners of the country including Portsmouth, Basingstoke, Manchester and Birmingham.

As an ensemble, Curzon has been able to establish an excellent reputation throughout the Midlands area. The quintet has had opportunities to perform in various venues including the likes of Worcester, Derby and Birmingham Cathedrals as well as the highly regarded St John Smiths Square in London. They have also enjoyed performing at various festivals including the prestigious Chipping Camden and Lichfield music festivals.

Curzon enjoy giving workshops to both primary and secondary schools with the hope of inspiring the next generation.

Curzon has had the privilege of being coached by some of the most respected brass chamber groups in the world. These include the likes of Oynx Brass, Stockholm Chamber Brass and Septura.

The quintet also toured its show "Life of Jocularity" in early 2020 which featured the group performing with the use of choreography and comedy as well as brass playing. The quintet are looking forward to the challenge of showing the versatility of a brass quintet through music and comedy. The group are also winners of the Leamington music prize and the Andrew Downes award.

Trumpets - Jacob Smith, Matt Tarrant / Horn - Tom Hayes / Trombone - Dan Price / Tuba - Mark Dilley

"Curzon Brass are an excellent quintet equally at home in many different styles"

- Julian Lloyd Webber



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Three Male Voice Choirs in Concert

Part 1

Introduction.....Alan Simmonds

National Anthem (All stand)

Worcester Male Voice Choir

With A Voice Of Singing..... Martin Shaw

Let It Be Me..... G Becaud/Mann/Curtis, arr Alwyn Humphries

He Ain't Heavy..... Music and Lyrics Bob Russell/Bobby Scott, arr S. Woolfenden

Curzon Brass

Escape.....Kevin McKee

Can't help falling in love.....Elvis Presley arr M. Tarrant

Libertango.....Piazzolla arr M.Tarrant

Isn't she Lovely.....Stevie Wonder arr J. Smith

Private Detective.....Phillip Lane arr M. Dilley

Puttin' on the Ritz.....6.....Stephen Roberts

Hereford Police Choir

Adiemus..... Karl Jenkins

For the Beauty of the Earth (Soloists - Mike Blissett and Robin Brook)..... John Rutter

Benedictus (Accompanied by Curzon Brass)..... Karl Jenkins

Churchdown Male Choir

Anthem (from Chess)..... Benny Andersson/Bjorn Ulvaeus, arr by Haydn James

My Heart Will Go On..... James Horner, arr Alan Simmonds

Can You Feel The Love Tonight..... Elton John, arr by John Trent Wallace

The Lost Chord..... Arthur Sullivan, arr Alan Simmonds

ALL CHOIRS

Llanfair.....words Henry Francis Lyte, music Robert Williams, arr by Mansel Thomas

You'll never walk alone (from 'Carousel')..... words Oscar Hammerstein II
music Richard Rodgers

What would I do without my music?..... Bruce Belland/Harry Middlebrooks

Three Male Voice Choirs in Concert

Part 2

Churchdown Male Choir

Where Shall I Be..... (Spiritual), arr Bryan Davies
The Lord's My Shepherd..... Stuart Townsend, arr Craig James
Nessun Dorma..... Puccini, arr Alan Simmons

Worcester Male Choir

African Prayer..... Enoch Sontonga, arr Eric Jones, English words Dyfed Wyn Edwards
The Holy City..... music Stephen Adams, words F.E. Weatherley, arr Barrie Cooper

Hereford Police Choir

I Am a Small Part of the World.....words Sally K. Albrecht/Jay Althouse, adapted Pauline
Rodena Sharpe, Gareth Chaffey and Laurence Sharpe
There is Nothing like a Dame.....arr William Stickles
Make you feel my Love..... Bob Dylan, arr Huw Parkman

All Choirs

American Trilogy..... arr Mickey Newbury, adapted Alwyn Humphreys
Musical director, Alison Houlbrooke
World in Union..... lyrics Charlie Skarbek, music Gustav Holst, arr M.D. Williams
Musical director, Scott Wolfenden
Morte Criste.....lyrics Issac Watts, music Emrys Jones
Musical director, Ralph Barnes

ENCORE

When the Saints.....arr Denys Hood
Musical director, Scott Wolfenden

Notices

AUDIENCE INFORMATION — COVID 19

All the choristers and musical teams have been asked to undertake a lateral flow test before the concert.

Sanitisers are available for the audience on entry.

Please give each other space if possible.

Other information.

First aiders are available. Please if you are unwell during the performance let the stewards/marshalls

Charity Information

Registered Charity Numbers

Midlands Air Ambulance Charity : 1143118

Hereford Police Male Choir : 515177

Churchdown Male Choir : 1060177

Worcester Male Voice Choir : 1141309