

HALIFAX

Choral Society

The world's oldest choral society
Making music continuously since 1817

JAZZ AND SHAKESPEARE AT HALIFAX MINSTER!



On Saturday 6th July, Halifax Minster will resound to the swinging sound of piano, drums, bass and singing as Halifax Choral Society presents a magical evening of jazz, madrigals, folk songs and a sprinkling of Shakespeare!

Music Director Anthony Gray says: 'We're delighted to again be part of the [Summer Festival at Halifax Minster](#). This year's programme features a selection of lighter music with the *Little Jazz Mass* and Madrigals by a 'contemporary hero of British Choral Music', Bob Chilcott, as well as a *Folk Song Sequence* by my good friend and colleague Guy Turner. We have been very lucky to welcome Guy to rehearsals to learn more about the music, originally written for Bingham Choral Society. We will be accompanied by the Halifax Jazz Trio, and I'm really looking forward to showcasing a different side to the singing abilities of this wonderful choir.'



BOB CHILCOTT

Bob has a lifelong passion for music, and has been a full-time composer since 1977. He was a member of the King's Singers for 12 years, and is now the principal guest conductor of the BBC Singers.

Best known for his associations with choral music, he has branched out into the world of jazz.

He has wide tastes in music, but commented to *The Guardian* in 2015 that, if he had six months free to learn a new instrument, he would 'like to be able play good jazz piano. I have always been able to do it badly but if I could have six months I think I could get better.' We will be performing three of Bob's jazz works in this concert.

CHORAL FOLK SONGS AND MADRIGALS

The concert also includes traditional madrigals; a chance to showcase the talents of our 5-strong team of choral scholars. We are grateful to VCEP Ltd for their support of our Choral Scholarship scheme through which the Choral Society is able to support young singers at a critical stage of their careers.

We will premiere a folk song arrangement, 'Wild Mountain Thyme' by Debra Page. As far as we know, this is the first time that the choral society has performed a work written by one of our singing members.

Debra writes explains her inspiration for the piece:



Over the last few years my family has dispersed, our daughters moving out one by one as they reached adulthood. The two eldest, both singers, would sing this folk song and I would accompany on the piano, forming an arrangement of my liking, differing a little from the original.

As they moved to Scotland, this song became more poignant, and after joining the Halifax Choral Society, I started to reimagine the arrangement for SATB full choir.

To find out more about Debra and her other works, visit debrapagemusic.com

Moments for Movement with **HALIFAX Choral Society**

Do you love to sing?
The friendly bunch at Halifax Choral Society would love to welcome you to their regular Monday rehearsal. You can just listen or you can join in with the warm ups. It's entirely up to you!

 **Monday 13th May**
7.30pm - 9.30pm

 **Carlton URC**
Carlton Terrace
Halifax HX1 2AD

To book:
No need to book

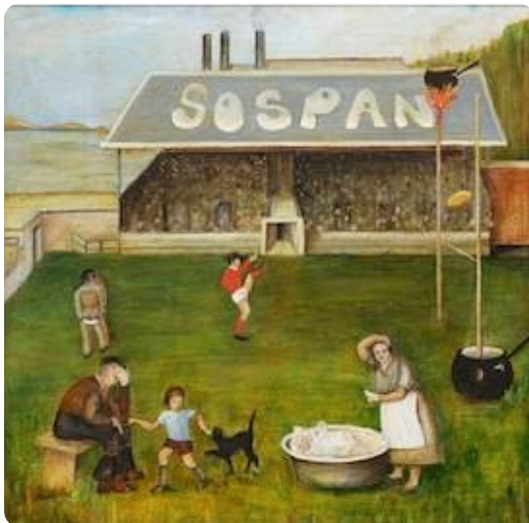
Mental Health Awareness Week
13-19 May 2024



Mental Health Week

We were thrilled to support [Healthy Minds Calderdale](#) at our 2023 Carols and Brass concert. We partnered with this excellent charity again during Mental Health Week 2024. Healthy Minds signposted the choir as part of their Moments for Movement Campaign, highlighting the well documented health benefits of singing.

Did you know ...?



Who doesn't love a song about a cat? One of Guy's folk songs, 'Sospan Fach' is perhaps most familiar as a (clean) rugby anthem, made popular by Max Boyce on his 1975 album 'We all had doctor's papers'. It's a strange little tale of a fraught housewife, trying to cope with a mountain of problems, while the little ('fach') saucepan boils over and the 'cat is creating merry hell'. You will clearly hear the cat creating merry hell in our performance of this song!

Dates for your diary:

6 July 2024, 6.30 p.m. 'Shakespeare and all that Jazz' at Halifax Minster

26 October 2024, 6.30 p.m. Autumn concert of music by Rutter and Wilby at Halifax Minster, accompanied by organ and brass ensemble

1 December 2024, 6.30 p.m. 'Carols and Brass' with Black Dyke Band at the Victoria Theatre

13 December 2024, 7.00 p.m. *Messiah* by Candlelight at Halifax Minster

12 April 2025, Bach's *St. Matthew Passion* with Ipswich Choral Society at Halifax Minster

All our concerts at Halifax Minster are family events, with accompanied under 18s admitted free.

Tickets for concerts at [Halifax Minster](#) available from halifaxchoral.org
Tickets for 'Carols and Brass' from victoriatheatre.co.uk or the box office:
01422 352258

If you have any suggestions for what you would like your Newsletter to include, or any queries about HCS, please email coordinator@halifaxchoral.org.

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