

## Stowmarket Chorale AGM 2023

### Music Director's report

Stowmarket Chorale continued to make great progress, musically, throughout 2022-2023 – this being only the second full year post-Covid.

The December concert at Woolpit Village Hall was a superb event, with a very pleasing performance of Haydn's *Missa Sancti Nicolai* and the third cantata from Bach's *Christmas Oratorio*, both accompanied by a brilliant Baroque ensemble. The Haydn had great shape and line and the choir equipped themselves well with the German text in the Bach.

The March concert of Mozart's Requiem was very well received, and it was a joy to be joined by such an excellent quartet of soloists. There were concerns raised about how much one could hear the accompaniment, either too little, or too much! However, it is important to remember that it is the sound 'out front' that matters, and the director will always be the best judge of that. The choir were doing a much better job than most members dared to believe!

The June concert of Handel's *Music for the Funeral of Queen Caroline* and three (of the four) Coronation Anthems was a breakthrough and described by many as a triumph. There was an air of positivity from the start and the choir sang with confidence and conviction and the sound had a real vitality to it. The audience feedback was some of the most encouraging I have heard.

I must thank Maggie for her commitment and dedication to the choir, overseeing all operations and planning. She has also been a great personal support to me as I have taken over as MD, helping me to find my way. I must also thank the rest of the committee and those extras who help in so many ways with the smooth running of the choir. I must also thank Richard for his fabulous support and accompaniment every Wednesday night and for his superb and colourful accompaniment of the Handel concert. Lastly, I must thank all the choir's members who turn up each week, do your own preparation at home, and contribute to making Stowmarket Chorale the burgeoning success it is! I look forward to three truly brilliant concerts over the next year!

*William Baldry*

*Assistant Music Director to 18<sup>th</sup> March 2023*

*Music Director from 19<sup>th</sup> March 2023*