

CHAIRMAN AND SECRETARY'S REPORT

2024-25 was a season full of wonderful music and we thank everyone involved in the choir for their contributions.

We can confirm that the Committee has continued to work on behalf of members, to meet the 'object' of our Society as outlined in the Constitution, meeting formally three times during the last season and engaging in several additional discussions in person and via email as issues arose. Meetings continued to focus primarily on detailed planning for each forthcoming season and outline planning for future seasons. There was also work done on fundraising and increasing audiences at our concerts.

The Committee took a detailed look at the work of the Honorary Secretary and the Box Office Manager as Liz and Michael Buxton were moving away in the spring. A number of tasks were assigned to other members of the Committee. Thanks to Liz Paice, Jenny Nortcliffe, and Alan Heath for taking these on. Following the departure of Liz Buxton, I was elected as Secretary by the committee in February 2025.

Knowing that we needed more tenors, a plan for a bursary to boost the tenor section and a funding plan was devised.

Invitations were accepted by Richard Morton and David Sanderson to become Life Friends in recognition of their many years of singing with us and by Liz Buxton and Michael Buxton in recognition of their many years of hard work as Secretary and Box Office Manager.

We were greatly saddened to hear that our former Conductor, from 2009 to 2022, Dr Simon Lindley passed away on 25 February 2025. Our June concert was dedicated to his memory. Jim Monach also sadly died in May.

Thanks again to everyone for your contribution to the success of the society over the last year as we continue working towards an exciting season under the direction of Philip Collin.

Sarah Hogan

Secretary

secretary@sheffieldbachchoir.org.uk

Chris Walker

Chairman

chairman@sheffieldbachchoir.org.uk

CONDUCTOR'S REPORT

The Year 2024/2025 was full of excellent singing with 4 very high-quality concerts.

Haydn's incredible Missa in Angustiis (Nelson Mass) along with Jonathan Willcocks' powerful A Great and Glorious Victory at St John's Ranmoor started the season off very strongly. The choir had found the Willcocks a challenge but rose to it heroically. An excellent quartet of Jane Burnell, Ailsa

Mainwaring, Nicolas Watts and William Burn in the Haydn with Nicolas Watts playing the role of Nelson in the Willcocks and the vibrant accompaniment of the National Festival Orchestra added to a very memorable performance. St John's was a very appropriate venue for this but audience numbers were very disappointing.

Next was Messiah at the cathedral. Jane Burnell, Beth Mackay, Nicolas Watts and Ross McInroy together with a choir on top form and the excellent National Festival Orchestra accompanying with Ruth Nicholson on continuo. A large and enthusiastic audience. A great evening.

In the Spring was St Matthew Passion, again at the cathedral. Again, we needed to replace an indisposed Stephen Lilley as evangelist, this time replaced by Tristan Moore, who also sang tenor arias. Our own David Bonar sang the role of Christ. Soprano soloist was the excellent Louise Wayman, alto soloist was the returning Catherine Backhouse and bass was regular soloist William Burn. The choir was augmented by members of St John's Ranmoor and Steel City Clerks who had sung the work the previous year and the ripieno choir was the combined forces of the Choristers of St John's, Ranmoor and the Steel City Choristers. Again accompanied by the National Festival Orchestra with Ruth Nicholson playing first continuo (organ) with the second continuo part being played on harpsichord by Derek Grover. A very moving performance.

For our final concert in the season, we paired potboilers with less well-known pieces in "If you like this that, you'll love this". Accompanied by James Mitchell on piano and organ at St Mark's, Broomhill. It was a fun concert – it was rewarding to revisit some pieces well-known to the choir as well as learning some new ones. This concert was dedicated to former conductor Simon Lindley who had died earlier in the year.

I am most grateful to all the members of the choir for their hard work and commitment. The standard of singing was very high throughout the year and it was very a rewarding and enjoyable year for me, especially as it included probably my two favourite choral works in the Bach and the Haydn. I would also thank the committee for all they do.

Philip Collin

Conductor

philipajcollin@gmail.com