

Coventry Philharmonic Society: concerts since 1944

This list has been compiled from various sources

- Programmes and posters held for the Society in the archives department of the Herbert Art Gallery and Museum.
- Programmes donated by members of the Society, notably Michael Coleman the late Ruth Gordon.
- A typescript list of concerts among the Society's papers, running from 1944 up to June 1992.

Because some programmes give the date and not the year, I have sometimes had to make a guess as to the year of certain concerts. For this and other reasons, there are bound to be gaps and errors in this list, and I will be very grateful to anyone who can point them out. In particular:

- Can anyone tell me the year of a performance of the Verdi Requiem on 21 June with John Dowding conducting the Phil and the Finham Choral Society at the University of Warwick?
- In 1984, did 2 December fall on a Saturday? I am sure someone must know how to extract this information from the Internet.
- In which year did the choir perform Merrie England on a Sunday at Bishop Ullathorne School? I think it must be after 1989. Soloists included B Thomas, J McCutcheon, N Kingdon and M Thomas.
- In which concert did we sing Zadok the Priest; Thou knowest, Lord; Sing Joyfully; Oh had I Jubal's lyre; spirituals from A Child of Our Time; Ave verum corpus; Pie Jesu; For the Beauty of the Earth and The Heavenly Aeroplane? (My word! What a programme!)
- Which was the concert we did in Allesley with a young organist from Fillongley?
- When did we do a private performance of Handel's Acis and Galatea in our rehearsal room at Quinton Park Baptist Church?

When a concert was given an overall title, I have put his title in **bold**. UW means that the concert was at the University of Warwick. I have used italics to add a little extra information or to ask further questions.

Anthony Buckley

The nineteen-forties

1944 Brahms Requiem ????????????????

April 1944
Stanford: The Revenge

September 1944
Tchaikovski: Symphony No: 5

January 1945

Parry: The Pied Piper of Hamelin
Coleridge Taylor: Hiawatha's Wedding Feast

April 1945

"Dame Myra Hess was the soloist in a concert in April 1945." [From a typescript in the Society's papers.]

May 1945

Borodin: Symphony No: 2

October 1945

Elgar: Cockaigne

Lambert: Rio Grande

Elgar: Songs from the Bavarian Highlands

March 1946

Handel: Messiah

14 September 1946

Coleridge Taylor: The Song of Hiawatha

30 November 1946

Tippett: A Child of our Time

[conducted by the composer]

13 January 1947

A recital by the Society's string quartet

8 February 1947

A Tchaikovski concert by the Society's symphony orchestra.

April 1947 (a Sunday)

Mendelssohn: Elijah

At the Hippodrome Theatre

February 1948

Elgar: The Dream of Gerontius

March 1948

Handel: Messiah

February 1949

Verdi: Requiem and Tchaikovski: Symphony No: 6

October 1949

Walton: Belshazzar's Feast

The nineteen-fifties

March 1950
Granville Bantock: Vanity of Vanities
Handel: Foundling Hospital Anthem

October 1950
Elgar: The Dream of Gerontius

April 1951
Orff: Carmina Burana
[First public performance in Britain though previously broadcast by the BBC]

September 1951
Vaughan Williams: Sea Symphony

March 1952
Bach: St Matthew Passion

October 1952
Verdi: Act 2 of Aida
Wagner: Act 3 of The Master Singers

November 1952
Handel: Messiah

March 1953
Rossini: Stabat Mater
Kodaly: Psalmus Hungaricus

December 1953
Berlioz: The Childhood of Christ

March 1954
Elgar: The Kingdom

November 1954
Brahms: Requiem
Elgar: For the Fallen

13 January 1955
Granville Bantock: Vanity of Vanities
[+ chamber music + tenor solos]

April 1955
Bach: B minor Mass

November 1955
Howells: Hymnus Paradisi
Walton: Belshazzar's Feast

24 March 1956

Verdi: Requiem [*with Joan Sutherland*]

27 October 1956

Mozart: Mass in C minor
[+ Prague Symphony]

9 March 1957

Elgar: King Olaf

February 1958

Bach: St Matthew Passion

March 1958

Handel: Messiah

May 1958

Bach: B minor Mass

November 1958

Purcell: Ode on St Cecilia's Day

Vaughan Williams: Towards the Unknown Region

14 March 1959

Elgar: The Dream of Gerontius

November 1959

Berlioz: The Damnation of Faust

The nineteen-sixties

March 1960

Bach: St John Passion

12 November 1960

Nielsen: Springtime in Fyn

Mendelssohn: Hymn of Praise

March 1961

Bruckner: Great Mass in F minor

November 1961

Parry: Blest Pair of Sirens

Vaughan Williams: Five Tudor Portraits

March 1962

Handel: Messiah

November 1962

Verdi: Requiem

1962

Members of the Philharmonic Choir joined with members of other choirs to take part in the world premiere of Britten's War Requiem.

April 1963

Bach: St Matthew Passion

November 1963

Rossini: Petite Messe Solennelle

December 1964

Britten: St Nicolas

March 1965

Handel: Messiah

May 1965

Walton: Coronation Te Deum

Britten: Spring Symphony

December 1965

G. Bush: Christmas Cantata

April 1966

Haydn: Creation

November 1967

Bach: Praise the Lord, all ye Heathen

Kodaly: Missa Brevis

May 1968

Brahms: Requiem

May 1969

P. Dickinson: Outcry. [World premiere of this commissioned work]

November 1969

Rossini: Petite Messe Solennelle

The nineteen-seventies

May 1970

Mendelssohn: Elijah

May 1972

Saint Saens: Samson and Delilah

November 1972

Beethoven: Mass in C

Parry: Ode on St Cecilia's Day

March 1973

Verdi: Four Sacred Pieces

Elgar: The Music Makers

February 1974

Schumann: Requiem for Mignon

Beethoven: Choral Fantasia

May 1974

Handel: Solomon

November 1974

CPE Bach: Magnificat

Haydn: Harmony Mass

March 1975

Handel: Messiah

June 1975

Brahms: Requiem

Dvorak: Te Deum

December 1975

Parry: Blest Pair of Sirens

Bruckner: Great Mass in F minor

May 1976

Mendelssohn: Elijah

December 1976

Handel: Messiah

January 1977

Haydn: Creation

May 1977

Vivaldi: Gloria

Bach: Motet No: 6

December 1977

Handel: Messiah

January 1978

Elgar: Dream of Gerontius

May 1978

Parry: I was glad

Elgar: Sea Pictures

Vaughan Williams: In Windsor Forest

December 1978

Handel: Messiah

January 1979

Verdi: Requiem

The nineteen-eighties

January 1980

Debussy: The Blessed Demoiselle

Honneger: King David

Handel: Zadok the Priest

With the Warwickshire Symphony Orchestra

March 1980

Britten: St Nicolas

Michael Hurd: Music's Praise

June 1980

Brahms: Requiem

Tony Hewitt Jones: Two Canticles

With the Coventry Symphony Orchestra

November 1980

Schutz: Psalm 98 (Sing to the Lord)

Purcell: Music for the Funeral of Queen Mary

G Gabrieli: Motet à 11

J S Bach: Chorale

S Rachmaninov: Vespers op. 37

Did the choir sing the whole of this work or just extracts?

17 January 1981

Mendelssohn: Elijah MCH

4 April 1981

Orff: Carmina Burana

26 November 1981

Handel: Messiah (extracts)

Bach: Christmas Oratorio Part 1

Scarlatti: Cantata

Was this in St Thomas More Church?

16 January 1982
Walton: Coronation March and 1953 Te Deum
R Vaughan Williams: Sea Symphony
Moeran: Nocturne

27 March 1982
Haydn: Te Deum in C 1799
Bernstein: Chichester Psalms
Rossini: Stabat Mater

July 1982
Summer Serenade
Included Schubert: Mass in G

October 1982
Last Night of the Proms

2 December 1982
Charpentier: Messe de Minuit
Rutter: When Icicles Hang by the Wall

15 January 1983
Gala Opera

30 April 1983
Mendelssohn: The First Walpurgis Night
Haydn: the Seasons
Beethoven: Piano Concerto No: 1

July 1983
J S Bach: St John Passion
Can this be right? I also have a note of concert on 1 July 1983 featuring Palestrina, Purcell, Handel and Rachmaninov.

December 1983
Christmas Crackers

21 January 1984
Elgar: The Kingdom

10 May 1984
Haydn: Nelson Mass
Mozart: Regina Caeli
Mozart: Litany of Loreto

7 July 1984
Bach: St John Passion

July 1984
Summer Party Concert

6 October 1984

Last Night of the Proms

6 December 1984

Handel: Messiah

27 April 1985

Elgar: The Dream of Gerontius

Coleridge Taylor: Hiawatha's Wedding Feast

June 1985

Sounds Sacred

December 1985

Christmas Crackers

April 1986

Orff: Carmina Burana

6 October 1986

Last Night of the Proms

6 December 1986

Christmas Crackers

4 April 1987

Bach: Magnificat

Mozart: C minor Mass

27 June 1987

Poulenc: Gloria

R Vaughan Williams: Dona nobis pacem

Holst: Te Deum

Dvorak: Five Biblical Songs

28 November 1987

Handel: Samson

December 1987

Christmas Crackers

12 December 1987

Coventry Carols

12 March 1988

Bruckner: F minor Mass

Haydn: Harmony Mass

April 1988
Poulenc: Gloria
R Vaughan Williams: Dona Nobis Pacem
May be an error here. See entry for 27 June 1987

11 June 1988
Fauré: Requiem
R Vaughan Williams: Mass in G minor

26 November 1988
Handel: Israel in Egypt

December 1988
Christmas Crackers

22 April 1989
Mozart: Vesperae Solennes de Confessore
Mozart: Requiem in D Minor

24 June 1989
Bach: Sing ye to the Lord
Durufle: Requiem

21 October 1989
Last Night of the Proms, including Berlin: Rhapsody in Blue UW

18 November 1989
Handel: Messiah (with Fulford Quintet) MCH

8 December 1989
Christmas Crackers UW

The nineteen-nineties

17 March 1990
The Heart of England
Elgar: The Banner of St George
R Vaughan Williams: In Windsor Forest
Bliss: Pastoral

23 June 1990
Fanshawe: African Sanctus UW
Rachmaninov: selections from The All-night Vespers
Ramirez: Missa Criolla

27 April 1991

J S Bach: Mass in B minor

10 November 1990

The Peace Concert

Brahms: Requiem,

R Vaughan Williams: Dona nobis pacem

[with Cotswold Sinfonietta]

22 June 1991

Early Last Night of the Proms

9 November 1991

Handel: Judas Maccabaeus

7 December 1991

Christmas Crackers

4 April 1992

Beethoven: Mass in C Major

Rossini: Stabat Mater

Must be a mistake here. I also have a note of R Vaughan Williams: Sea Symphony on this day

20 June 1992

Haydn: Creation

5 December 1992

Christmas Crackers

34 April 1993

Purcell: King Arthur *[at UW]*

26 June 1993

Rossini: Petite Messe Solennelle

9 October 1993

Last Night of the Proms

MCH

6 November 1993

Handel: Messiah

4 December 1993

Christmas Crackers *[Can it really be true that we did three concerts in successive months?]*

12 March 1994

Sullivan: Trial by Jury (and various other works)

[Was this the concert at St Martin's Church, Finham, which featured young Coventry soloists?]

21 May 1994
Fanshaw: African Sanctus
Bernstein: Chichester Psalms UW
R Vaughan Williams: O clap your hands

9 July 1994
Finzi: For St Cecilia
Orff: Carmina Burana
[with members of St Michael's Singers; at Bedworth]

15 October 1994
Rutter: Magnificat

3 December 1994
Christmas Crackers UW

25 March 1995
Bach: St Matthew Passion poster

24 June 1995
Purcell: The Fairy Queen *[at UW]*

2 December 1995
Christmas Crackers

23 March 1996
Handel: Saul MCH

11 May 1996
Verdi: Requiem
[Cathedral; with other choirs of NFMS]

10 June 1996
Four Centuries of Choral Music
(Byrd, Purcell, Handel, Mozart, Brahms et al)
[At Holy Trinity Church for the spire fund]

29 June 1996
Rossini: Petite Messe Solennelle MCH
With Cotswold Sinfonietta

9 November 1996
Four Centuries of English Music
At St James's Church, Tile Hill

7 December 1996
Christmas Crackers

15 March 1997

Bach: St John Passion

21 June 1997

Italian Evening

Puccini: Messa di Gloria,

Rossini Stabat Mater

22 November 1997

Choral Masterpieces

Fauré : Requiem

Various choral items and solos for guitar and woodwind

At St Barbara's Church, Earlsdon

6 December 1997

Christmas Crackers **UW**

17 December 1997

A Coventry Carol

At St Mary's Hall

21 March 1998

Spring Concert

Milford: Passing Year.

Rutter Magnificat

At St James's Church, Tile Hill

23 April 1998

St George's Day

4 July 1998

Summer Serenade

Chilcot: Singing by Numbers

Rutter: Fancies

R V Williams: The Lark Ascending

[Did this concert include children?]

4 December 1998

Christmas Crackers **UW**

31 October 1998

Entente Cordiale URC, Warwick Rd

Concert with Chorale Arioso of Caen

27 March 1999

An Evening of Baroque Music

Pergolesi: Magnificat

Handel

Vivaldi: Gloria MCH

30 April 1999
Anglo-Italian Concert MCH
With Coro Jacopo da Bologna

24 June 1999
Sounds of Summer
St James's Church, Styvechale

2 October 1999
Autumn Medley
At Quinton Park Baptist Church

13 November 1999
Autumn Concert
Bach: Cantata 61
Handel
R Vaughan Williams: Mystical Songs
At Earlsdon Methodist Church

4 December 1999
Ramirez: Navidad Nuestra
Buxtehude: Christmas Cantata
Tucapsky: Time of Christemas [*sic*]
Rutter: Brother Heinrich's Christmas
[At St Barbara's Church, Earlsdon]

After 1999

20 May 2000
R Vaughan Williams: Sea Symphony.
With other choirs under umbrella of NFMS. At Cathedral.

7 July 2000
Summer Concert
At St James's, Styvechale

18 November 2000
Haydn: Creation MCH
This was a free concert, a Millennium gift to the city

1 December 2000
Be of Good Cheer
At St James's, Styvechale. Was this the concert which included Rutter's "When Icicles Hang by the Wall"?

7 April 2001

Bullard: Canticle of Freedom.
Alan Bullard was guest of honour; it was the work's second performance.
Dvorak: Te Deum
At Bablake

21 June 2001
A Night at the Opera
At Bablake

13 October 2001
Handel: Messiah
At Bablake

7 December 2001
Rejoice and be Glad
Christmas Motets and Carols by Byrd, Dering, Philips, Praetorius
At St Barbara's, Earlsdon

16 March 2002
Andrew Carter: Music's Jubilee
Haydn: Paukenmesse
At Bablake

21 June 2002
A Night at the Opera 2
At Bablake. With Ian Caddy and Julian Hellaby

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*This was John Dowding's last concert as music director. The next concert was
Steven Russell's first.*
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19 October 2002
Pergolesi: Magnificat
Vivaldi: Gloria
+ various by Monteverdi and Scarlatti
At Bablake

13 December 2002
Christmas Concert
At St James's

10 May 2003
Durufle: Requiem
Durufle: Prelude and fugue for organ "sur le nom d'ALAIN"
R Vaughan Williams: Five Mystical Songs
Fauré : Cantique de Jean Racine

30 May 2003

Mendelssohn: Elias (aka Elijah)
In Caen, Normandy, with Chorale Arioso

31 May 2003
Mendelssohn: Elias (aka Elijah)
In Caen, Normandy, with Chorale Arioso

18 October 2003
Fauré: Requiem

13 December 2003
Christmas Concert
Included Handel: Messiah Part 1
With Salvation Army Band

3 April 2004
Rutter: Magnificat
Jenkins: The Armed Man
With Mary Plazas

June 2004
Gala Baroque Concert.
Handel: Ode for Birthday of Queen Anne
Handel: The King shall Rejoice
Purcell: Come, come ye sons of art.
Purcell: Love's Goddess Sure

20 November 2004
Mendelssohn: Elijah
With the Finham Choral Society

24 March 2004
Rutter: Requiem
Rutter: A Sprig of Thyme
Was this at Holy Trinity Church?

3 November 2007
Handel: Samson

10 May 2008
Gluck: Orfeo ed Euridice
With Emily van Evera?

November 2008
Jenkins: The Armed Man
Orff: Carmina Burana

19 October 2009

Handel: Messiah Part 1
Goodall: Eternal Light