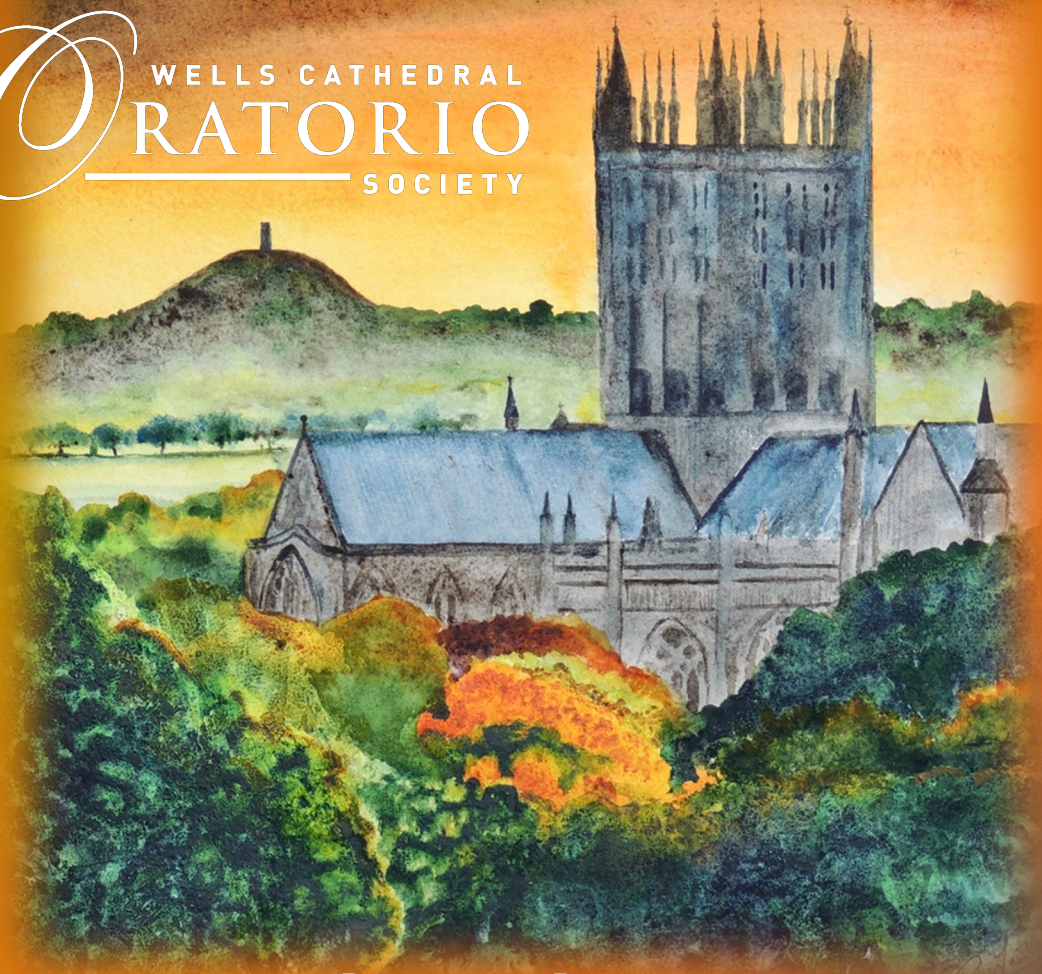


WELLS CATHEDRAL  
**ORATORIO**  
SOCIETY



# Sacred and Operatic Choral Favourites

Alexander Hamilton *conductor*

James Orford *organist*

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November at 14.00

Admission; free

Collection in aid of Wells Cathedral, Wells Cathedral Oratorio Society and Somerset Supports Ukraine



**SOMERSET SUPPORTS UKRAINE**

A CHARITY SUPPORTING DISPLACED PEOPLE FROM THE UKRAINE



## Welcome

It is a great pleasure to welcome you to Wells Cathedral for a performance of Sacred and Choral Favourites by The Wells Cathedral Oratorio Society, WCOS.

Many of you will be regular supporters of the WCOS and some of you will be members of our congregation but to those of you who are here for the first time a special welcome.

The famous scissor arches of the cathedral are a stunning testament to the engineering skills of medieval England. They make an iconic frame for a choir and orchestra and the unique acoustics of this famous cathedral can only be experienced by attending a service or performance.

Enjoy the concert and do come again and appreciate the many features of this very special place. I know that the WCOS has some exciting plans for next year and beyond and so I hope you will sign up to their mailing list to ensure you are kept informed.

Anne Gell  
Acting Dean of Wells



The cathedral has a loop system.  
Hearing aids may be switched to the position T.



# AUTUMN CONCERT

## CHORAL AND OPERATIC FAVOURITES

Today's selection of music includes a range of sacred and operatic choruses from volumes edited by our society patron, John Rutter.

Many will be familiar, some not so, but it is representative of our wish to diversify our range of music and to appeal to wider audiences.

Verdi                      Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves

Faure                      Cantique de Jean Racine

Monteverdi              Cantate Domino

Puccini                    Humming Chorus

Mozart                    Ave verum corpus

Monteverdi              Beatus vir

Mozart                    from Idomeneo, the aria: *Padre, Germani, Addio!*  
performed by *Lydia Grace South* of Wells Cathedral School

Lotti                        Crucifixus

Bruckner                 Christus factus est

Donizetti                 Chorus of wedding guests

Brahms                    Geistliches Leid

Verdi                        Anvil Chorus

Rutter                      A Ukrainian Prayer.

## Alexander Hamilton conductor

Prior to taking up his appointment in Wells, Alexander held organ scholarships at Westminster Abbey, Trinity College, Cambridge, and St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle. At both Westminster Abbey and St George's Chapel, Alexander played the organ for both daily services and at a number of state occasions.

Alexander read Music as Organ Scholar of Trinity College, Cambridge, where he accompanied the choir in its busy schedule of services, concerts and tours, as well as number of critically-acclaimed recordings for Hyperion, including discs of music by Stanford, Owain Park, Finzi, Vaughan Williams, and Cecilia McDowall. Alexander won First Prize in the Northern Ireland International Organ Competition 2015.



## Lydia Grace South soprano

Lydia heralds from Lincolnshire where she was a chorister in Lincoln Cathedral Choir from 2013-2021. On three occasions she progressed to the final stages of BBC Young Chorister of the Year, performing for BBC broadcasts. Lydia has held a MDS Scholarship at Wells Cathedral School as a Specialist Musician since 2022 studying with Andrew Kidd.

Lydia hopes to further her studies at conservatoire before continuing her career as an opera and oratorio soloist and song recitalist. Highlights of her solo career thus far include solos in Bach's St John Passion with the Lincolnshire Chamber Orchestra, Mendelssohn's Elijah at Beverley Minster, Handel's Messiah in Lincoln Cathedral and Parry's Judith at the Royal Festival Hall and subsequent commercial recording. In 2023 Lydia was awarded the Thelma King Prize at the Mid Somerset Festival, as the competition's outstanding singer.

## James Orford organist

James has held organ scholarships at St Paul's Cathedral, King's College, London, the Royal Hospital Chelsea, and Truro Cathedral. He recently obtained a distinction in his Master's degree at the Royal Academy of Music, where he was a Bicentenary Scholarship holder.

He is a regular performer, both as a soloist and an accompanist, and has appeared on broadcasts and recordings, as well as in several concert halls and cathedrals in the UK and abroad. A pianist as well, James has won several Accompanist prizes and regularly performs alongside both instrumentalists and singers.





## Wells, The Queen of Cathedrals

*Photograph by Dimitris Koutroumpas  
of The Art Bank, Shepton Mallet*

*Cover painting "Autumn over Wells" is by our  
chairman, Peter Lawrence*



# PLANNED CONCERTS



Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2023

## Handel *Messiah*

Conductor *Alexander Hamilton*

Orchestra *Music for Awhile* – leader *Maggie Faultless*

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2024

## Wells Community Day

WCOS will support and perform



Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2024

## Elgar *The Dream of Gerontius*

Conductor *Alexander Hamilton*

Orchestra and soloists t

### ***Bringing exciting choral music to Somerset***

Wells Cathedral Oratorio Society (WCOS) was founded in 1896 and is one of the South West's leading choral societies. It performs the great choral works with some of the UK's finest soloists and professional orchestras in the glorious surroundings of the 'Queen of English Cathedrals'.

## THE NEXT DECADE

The members of WCOS have been considering how we can share the excitement of choral music with the people of Somerset and beyond in the coming years. It was agreed that we should:

- Be proud of our 130-year history.
- Broaden the range of music beyond traditional oratorios to embrace modern composers and trends.
- Engage with different cultures and musical styles.
- Enjoy performing in 'The Queen of English Cathedrals' with imaginative and creative use of the space to enhance the audience experience.
- Develop relationships with other organisations such as WoWFest and Glastonbury Extravaganza to expand our performances outside the cathedral.
- Attract younger and more diverse audiences and choir members by engaging and performing with local schools and youth groups.
- Use "Come and Sing" days with popular conductors and composers to share the experience of singing and performing large choral works with the wider community.
- Emphasise the benefits of singing to the general well-being both of performers and audiences.



NEWS & MAILING LIST

*Scan QR codes to join our mailing list and to buy tickets*

*We hope you will join us on our journey*

TICKETS



## Patrons

Mr John Rutter CBE  
Dr A Crossland

## Friends of Wells Cathedral Oratorio Society

We appreciate the ongoing support and encouragement of the Friends.

Mr David Bollington	Mr & Mrs Dennis & Janet Johnson	Mr & Mrs Gerald & Rosemary Parsons
Mr Baker	Mr Anthony Jonas	Mrs Pamela Pye
Mr Michael JCansdale	Mr Anthony Kaye	Mr Alan Rayfield
Mr David S Corp	Mrs Susan Kaye	Mr Roach
Mr Charles Crawford	Mr John King	Mr Philip Hugh Roberts
Ms Sheila Crease	Mrs Mary S l'Anson	Mr Brian Roberts Wray
Mrs Jennifer Davis	Mr Richard Lander	Ms Frances Rowe
Mrs Carolyn Fussell	Mr Alex Lemanski	Mr Alan B Rowntree
Prof. Terry Gifford	Mr Patrick Lennard Payne	Mr & Mrs Christopher Stonehouse
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Mrs Susan J Gould	Ms Rosemary Lunn	Mr David Williams
Mr Michael Groom	Mr John Morton	Mrs Colette Winfield
JMr & Mrs ohn Harris Ford	Mrs Judith Oliver	
Mrs Dot Hunter		
Mr Chris Jenkins		

## OUR SPONSORS

We are extremely grateful to the companies below who have given generous support to help us to deliver our mission to bring exciting choral music to Somerset.

Programmes, posters and fliers by **St Andrew's Press, Wells**



Our first full sponsor is the Bishop's Eye **contemporary eatery and wine bar** together with its associated Blair Foundation. Located adjacent to the Cathedral in the market square it is highly recommended for its locally-sourced sharing platters, cakes, coffees wines and much more. *So why not pop in.?*

Thank you so much Louis, Pip and the **Blair Foundation**.

**Sam Forsey**, a choral singer himself in a number of choirs, has for some years offered his support to our society as *Independent Examiner* of our accounts. This year his family company of funeral directors is a concert sponsor as well.

Thank you Sam and Forsey and Son.

## Forsey and Son

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# WHY A FREE CONCERT?

PLEASE BE GENEROUS - Suggested Donation £10 per person  
If you are a taxpayer please use the gift-aid envelopes provided

We decided to open our 2023/2024 season with this concert of choral favourites from the 16th century to the present day. On this afternoon of Armistice Day, the selection is intended to lift the spirits as we reflect on the events of the past, and, sadly, of the present.

The Cathedral remains open to visitors during this performance which means we cannot charge for tickets, but there are very significant costs associated with the running of the Cathedral and in mounting today's performance. We are, therefore, asking for donations to cover these costs and in addition to covering the basic costs of the performance we have decided to support the charity *Somerset Supports Ukraine*.

Around 3000 displaced people from Ukraine are living within the ancient borders of Somerset, supported by some outstanding charities and community groups. The generosity of local people in providing homes is extraordinary but people who suddenly have to move from their own country have multiple complex needs.



*Somerset Supports Ukraine* provides extra support for such issues as accessing appropriate and safe housing, healthcare, the state benefits system, employment, education, English language teaching, cultural integration and help with the multiple aspects of trauma and stress from enforced relocation.



NEWS & MAILING LIST

TICKETS



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