

Escafeld Choral

Registered Charity no. 1110334

Conductor: Nigel Russell

Piano: George Parsons

Soprano: Keren Hadas

Tenor: Tim Peters

Music Makers and Dreamers of Dreams

**A concert of music by Elgar and
Vaughan Williams**

**St Andrew's Psalter Lane
Saturday 1 July 2017
7.30 p.m.**



www.escafeldchorale.org.uk

**making
music**



Nigel Russell has a PhD in Coal Science and heads the professional development team for learning and teaching at Sheffield University. Whilst studying chemistry at the University of Kent, he won a three-year bursary to study singing with Kathryn Lewis in Canterbury. Moving to London in 1994, he continued to study at the London College of Music, joined the Philharmonia Chorus and was a founding member of the Quartet of St Giles-in-the-Fields. He has sung in Europe's finest concert halls for some of the world's greatest conductors; a particular highlight was singing for Pope John Paul II's 80th birthday in The Vatican. Moving to Sheffield in 2000, Nigel joined the Buxton Madrigal Singers and was awarded an OU Diploma in Music in 2001. As a Songman in Sheffield Cathedral Choir since 2003, he has appeared on a number

of recordings and live broadcasts, including the Maundy Thursday service in 2015, when trying to sing 'Zadok the Priest' with the Queen a foot behind him was rather challenging! He has sung the roles of Father (Humperdink – *Hansel and Gretel*) and Samuel (Sullivan – *Pirates of Penzance*); in concert: *Dichterliebe* (Schumann), *Songs of Travel* (Vaughan Williams), *Earth and Air and Rain* (Finzi), *Songs of the Sea* (Stanford), *Folk Songs* (Britten) and a programme of Victorian parlour songs. Nigel has conducted Sheffield Cathedral Choir and has been Musical Director of Worrall Male Voice Choir since July 2005, taking part in significant fund-raising concerts. As an organist he has played at Sheffield Cathedral, Buxton Parish Church and at Durham Cathedral accompanying the Buxton Madrigal Singers.



George Parsons was a boy chorister at King's College, Cambridge, where he also began organ lessons. As a sixth-former he was Junior Organ Scholar at Wells Cathedral and, after further study in Amsterdam, he read music at Queen's College, Oxford, where he was also an organ scholar. Since graduating in 2003, George has been Music Assistant and Music Co-ordinator at All Souls, Langham Place, in London, and Christ Church, Fulwood. In addition to working as a freelance teacher, accompanist and

recitalist (which has taken him to Europe, Africa and the USA), George has just completed a PhD at Sheffield University on the link between music and Christian theology in the music of Olivier Messaien and James MacMillan. He is a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists. George became Escafeld's rehearsal accompanist in September 2013.



Keren Hadas, our 2016–17 Associate Soloist, moved to the UK in 2006 and has lived here since then. She graduated from the University of Sheffield with a Bachelor in Music in 2015, with a focus on performance. She has been closely involved with the Royal College of Music since her teenage years, which she spent in the Junior Department. She transitioned to singing from piano, her original first instrument, which she continues to study. Keren is an active chorister, appearing on BBC Radio 3 as part of the Royal

College of Music Chamber Choir, performing the winning compositions from the King James Bible composition awards. She has also performed in Westminster Abbey as part of the Commonwealth Voices to commemorate Commonwealth Day. Keren has extensive international touring experience, performing across Europe as both a chorister and a soloist..

Escafeld Chorale began life in 1969 as the Fossdale Singers, a small group of friends led by Ron Law. The choir has steadily grown to around 70 members, while still retaining its friendly atmosphere. From 1983 to 2001, Francis Wells (conductor of Bolsterstone Male Voice Choir) wielded the baton, developing the choir so that it could tackle a wider range of music, from Palestrina, Byrd and Vivaldi, through Mozart, Haydn and Handel to Poulenc, Vaughan Williams and Britten. Between 2001 and 2013, Peter Dutton continued to expand the repertoire, with works as varied as Brahms's *Ein Deutsches Requiem*, Haydn's *Creation*, Orff's *Carmina Burana* and Ramirez's *Misa Criolla*. Ian Roberts took up the baton from 2013 to 2016, conducting the choir in well-received performances of Fauré's *Requiem*, Haydn's *Nelson Mass*, Rossini's *Petite Messe Solennelle* and Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*, plus themed concerts focused on British and American music. Following another six months under the direction of Francis Wells, the choir was delighted to appoint Nigel Russell as its musical director in March 2017. In addition to large-scale works, the choir also enjoys singing the madrigals and part songs that formed the mainstay of its early repertoire, and its Christmas concerts are firm favourites with choir and audience. Escafeld often performs with local singers and instrumentalists, and is keen to encourage young performers (especially as Associate Soloists) and to support local charities.

Singing with Escafeld Chorale

We have occasional vacancies in all sections and a friendly welcome is extended to new members. We don't ask you to undergo a scary audition but we do expect a certain level of musical ability and there's a short probationary period. There is currently a waiting list, but if you're interested in joining us, please contact our membership officer, Anna Crewe (tel: 0114 327 5530), or use the 'contact us' button on the website.

Friends of Escafeld Chorale

You can also support the choir by becoming a Friend of Escafeld Chorale. Friends receive two free tickets and a complimentary programme, as well as advance publicity, for each of our concerts. They are also welcome at any social events. To become a Friend of Escafeld Chorale, please fill in a yellow gift form (or download it from our website) or contact Chris Armitage (tel: 0114 4499339).

Music Hire

Is your choir looking for a particular piece of music? We have quite an extensive library, especially part songs and madrigals. For a list of music available for hire contact Jo Wright (tel: 01246 417458), or visit our website.

For more information about the choir, visit our website at
www.escafeld.chorale.org.uk

Classical Sheffield is the one-stop shop for information about all the classical music-making that goes on in the city.



Escafeld Chorale

Christmas concerts 2017

Saturday 9 December: Holy Trinity Church, Wentworth

and

Tuesday 12 December: St Andrew's, Psalter Lane

**Our usual mixture of seasonal music and readings,
rounded off with festive refreshments**

Further details on our website:

www.escafeldchorale.org.uk

**Escafeld Chorale is very grateful for the support of the
South Yorkshire Community Foundation in helping with
the costs of rehearsal premises for the 2016–17 season.**

