



Ian Roberts began his musical career as a chorister at Chester Cathedral, going on to read music at the University of East Anglia, whilst singing as a choral scholar at Norwich Cathedral. Following a year's organ scholarship at Blackburn and Chichester cathedrals, in 2003 he returned to Chester as Assistant Organist, later being promoted to Assistant Director of Music. In 2011 Ian became Director of Music at St John's Church, Ranmoor, where he directs a full programme of music, working with the Boy Choristers, the Girl Choristers, the Songmen and the Chamber Choir. He has instigated a series of organ recitals, taken the choirs on a tour to France, directed the 2013 Ranmoor Festival, and released a

Christmas CD with the Ranmoor choirs. As an organist, Ian has given recitals in many cathedrals and churches in the UK and across Europe. He has broadcast on BBC Radios 3 and 4 as well as on BBC1 television. Ian became Escafeld's Music Director in September 2013.



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 is also working on 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.



Jak Laight, our 2014–15 Associate Soloist, graduates from Sheffield University this summer with a BMus. His first study was classical guitar but he soon realised that he was more keen on singing. In 2013 he enjoyed his first opera and oratorio performances, playing Starveling in Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Opera on Location) and as the bass soloist in Handel's *Messiah* (Sheffield Bach Society). In 2014, he was in the chorus for Opera on Location's *La Bohème* and sang baritone solos in Howard Goodall's *Eternal Light* (Glossop Choral Society). This year he has sung Pandolfe in Massenet's *Cendrillon* (Sheffield City opera).

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 in 2013. 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 both choir and audience. Escafeld often performs with local singers and instrumentalists, and is keen to encourage young performers (especially through its Associate Soloist scheme) and to support local charities

Singing with Escafeld Chorale

Maybe you'd like to join the choir? Perhaps you used to belong to the school choir and would like to get back to singing again. Or maybe you've recently moved to the area and are looking for a new choir. From time to time we have 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. 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 make an annual gift and 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 follow the 'Friends' link on our website

Music Hire

Is your choir looking for a particular piece of music? We have quite an extensive library of music, 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 recently updated website at



www.escafeld.chorale.org.uk



Classical Sheffield Festival

23–25 October 2015



Escafeld will be taking part in the first Classical Sheffield Festival – a feast of musical offerings from many of the city’s choral and instrumental groups at a variety of city-centre venues. Tickets will be on sale in the autumn for the whole weekend at a very modest £20 (plus day tickets for £10 and £5 tickets for individual events). Look out for detailed information during the summer.

Escafeld’s 2015–16 concert season

Christmas concerts

Saturday 5 December: Holy Trinity Church, Wentworth

Tuesday 8 December: All Saints Church, Ecclesall

Spring concert (*Rossini: Petite Messe Solennelle*)

Saturday 12 March: Holy Trinity Church, Millhouses

Summer concert

Saturday 2 July: St Andrew’s Psalter Lane, Sheffield

Further details on our website
www.escafeldchorale.org.uk



Escafeld Chorale

Registered charity no. 1110334

Conductor

Ian Roberts

Piano

George Parsons

Baritone

Jak Laight

Summertime!



St Andrew's, Psalter Lane
Saturday 4 July 2015 at 7.30 p.m.
www.escafeldchorale.org.uk