

Steventon Choral Society Concerts in 2002-2003

Saturday 7th June: Music for a June Evening

Steventon Village Hall

Musical director: Terry Pearce

Pianist: Debbie Jordan

In celebration of the 50th anniversary of the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II on 2nd June 1953, the concert began with an arrangement by Elgar of the National Anthem (soloist Alex Freeman). The first half of the concert featured items from the choir's recent CD, [Musical Miscellany](#), interspersed with solos from Rachel Vevers (Canterbury Fair), John Hunt (two songs from Flanders & Swann) and Helen Pearce (an Ivor Novello medley). Songs included Come to the Fair, Linden Lea, Waltzing Matilda, Sweet and Low, Now Let Us to the Bagpipe's Sound, Song of Liberty and We'll Gather Lilacs. The first half ended with The Cachucha from the Gondoliers by Gilbert & Sullivan.

The second half featured medleys from two famous musicals – West Side Story and Calamity Jane. First we visited the slums of New York to hear the well-known songs Tonight, I Feel Pretty, One Hand One Heart, Maria and America (ladies trio Alex Freeman, Rachel Vevers and Wendy Moore).

Steve Thompson and Terry Pearce then played their guitars while Steve sang Mrs Robinson, Wonderful Tonight, and All My Loving. Tom Hartley sang Summer Holiday to complete the interlude before we travelled back in time to the Wild West.

From Calamity Jane, the choir sang the rumbustious songs The Deadwood Stage, Men!, Windy City (soloist Wendy Moore) and The Black Hills of Dakota. Rebecca Joise (mezzo soprano) sang the haunting song, My Secret Love, and the Can Can girls thrilled the audience with their dancing and vitality.



Thursday 1st May: A Concert for Spring 2003

[St Matthew's Church](#), Harwell

Musical director: Terry Pearce

Organist: Debbie Jordan

This concert raised £455 in aid of the work being done in The Sudan by mission partners, Heather and David Sharland, from the [Church Missionary Society](#).

Vivaldi's Gloria formed the first half of the concert with soloists Helen Pearce (soprano), Diana Bowder (mezzo soprano) and Wendy Moore (contralto). After a short interval, the choir sang items of sacred music from its new CD beginning with Panis Angelicus and Mozart's Ave Verum. The choir then sang a selection of five spirituals (Michael Row the Boat, Steal Away, Deep River, Were You There? and De Battle of Jericho). This was followed by O Rest in the Lord (soloist: Rebecca Joise) – the first of three pieces from Mendelssohn's Elijah – and Purcell's Rejoice in the Lord Alway (soloists: Wendy Moore, Stephen Thompson and Terry Pearce). The trio Lift Thine Eyes and the chorus, He Watching Over Israel, completed the excerpts from Elijah. A seasonal note was struck by Easter hymn, When I Survey the Wondrous Cross (Morte Criste), sung to the Welsh tune by Emyrs Jones; Rachel Vevers and Alex Freeman featured as soloists in the second and third verses. The concert closed with a Fanfare from the ladies chorus and two pieces from Handel's Samson – Let the Bright Seraphim (soloist: Helen Pearce) and Let Their Celestial Concerts All Unite.

Sunday 13th April: A Concert for Spring 2003

St Michael & Angels, Steventon

This concert raised £215 in aid of [Child Advocacy International](#), a charity that works to support and help children affected by the ravages of war worldwide.

Musical director: Terry Pearce

Organist: Debbie Jordan

Vivaldi's Gloria formed the first half of the concert with soloists Helen Pearce (soprano), Diana Bowder (mezzo soprano) and Wendy Moore (contralto). After a short interval, the choir sang items of sacred music from its new CD beginning with Panis Angelicus and Mozart's Ave Verum. The choir then sang a selection of five spirituals (Michael Row the Boat, Steal Away, Deep River, Were you There? and De Battle of Jericho). This was followed by O Rest in the Lord (soloist: Rebecca Joice) – the first of three pieces from Mendelssohn's Elijah – and Purcell's Rejoice in the Lord Alway (soloists: Wendy Moore, Stephen Thompson and Terry Pearce). The trio Lift Thine Eyes and the chorus, He Watching Over Israel, completed the excerpts from Elijah. A seasonal note was struck by Easter hymn, When I Survey the Wondrous Cross (Morte Criste), sung to the Welsh tune by Emyrs Jones; Rachel Vevers and Alex Freeman featured as soloists in the second and third verses. The concert closed with a Fanfare from the ladies chorus and two pieces from Handel's Samson – Let the Bright Seraphim (soloist: Helen Pearce) and Let Their Celestial Concerts All Unite.

Friday 4th April: Sing of Stainer's Crucifixion with the choir of St Mary's Church, Chieveley

St Mary's Church, East Ilsley

Musical director: Terry Pearce

Assistant musical director: Debbie Jordan

Organist: Michael Evans

Tenor: Robin Howells

Bass: Terry Pearce

A scratch choir of over 50 singers produced a performance of high standard. The retiring collection of £190 in aid of church funds included a donation in memory of the late Marnie Hibbert (the mother of one of our members) who died on December 30th 2002.

Sunday 29th December: Songs of Praise

St Michael & All Angels, Steventon

Organist: Debbie Jordan

Members of the choral society joined the church choir to sing carols requested by the congregation.

Sunday 22nd December: Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

St Michael & All Angels, Steventon (with the church choir)

Organist: Debbie Jordan

Saturday 14th December and Thursday 19th December: A Christmas Party

Christmas music with audience carols for everyone to join in

Steventon Village Hall

Musical director: Terry Pearce

Pianist: Debbie Jordan

The concerts helped to raise £700 for the Children's Oncology Unit, Ward 4B, at the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford.

The concert began with Merry, Merry Christmas and Ding, Dong! Merrily On High – the first of several carols featuring bells. Rebecca Joice and Ed Glass then took the parts of the page and the king as the

audience joined in for Good King Wenceslas. Two traditional carols, Sussex Carol and Flemish Carol, were sung before the next audience carol – As With Gladness Men of Old (verse 3: Diana Bowder and Alex Freeman). After the choir had sung Hark the Glad Sound, Mo Hunt read us a poem about the plight of the altos. Two popular Christmas songs – Can't Believe Its Christmas and O Holy Night (soloists – Gerry Brewer and Helen Pearce) were followed by Sweet Chiming Christmas Bells and another carol for the audience, A Child This Day Is Born. A small group, The Carol Singers, sang about carol singing around their village long ago and the choir sang Jingle Bells to welcome Father Christmas.

The second half began with Mistletoe and Wine followed by an audience carol, Once in Royal David's City (verse 3: Rachel Vevers and Trish Napper). We then enjoyed two solos – Debbie Jordan on the piano with a version of Adeste Fideles and Helen Pearce singing The Bells of St Marys. The audience joined in with Hark the Herald Angels Sing before the choir whisked us for a Winter Wonderland and John Hunt performed a monologue about the delights of a children's nativity play. The carols In Dulci Jubilo, Away in a Manager and Deck the Hall brought us to the next audience carol, O Come All Ye Faithful (verse 3: Rebecca Joice, Janet Money, Jack Jarvis and Tom Hartley). After the choir had sung Let There Be Peace On Earth, Wendy Moore led the audience in the choruses of When Santa Got Stuck Up the Chimney and I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus (Santa returned at this point with some mistletoe to join in the fun). The concert ended with Zadok the Priest – a reminder that 2002 had been the Queen's Golden Jubilee.

Thursday 12th December: A Christmas Party

Loyd Lindsay Rooms, Ardington, Oxfordshire
Concert for the Ridgeway Golden Years Club