



# FAURÉ REQUIEM

CANTIQUE DE JEAN RACINE | PAVANE  
DURUFLÉ - UBI CARITAS | TANTUM ERGO

And other French choral favourites with  
organ and piano

MUSICAL DIRECTOR DEXTER DROWN  
ACCOMPANIST ABIGAIL JOHNSON

**21 MARCH 26**



**7:30PM**

St John the Evangelist Church  
Mill Street  
Derby  
DE1 3HZ

**TICKETS £15 (U18 FREE)**

Buy online or  
on the door  
(cash or card)



  [www.derwentsingers.org.uk](http://www.derwentsingers.org.uk)  
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The  
Derwent  
Singers  
2025/2026 50<sup>th</sup> SEASON

## **Bemrose Recital - Martin Cousin (piano)**

Presented by Derby Chamber Music & Music at Duffield  
8 Feb at 4:00pm - Multi-Faith Centre, University of Derby

## **Come and Sing Choruses from Haydn The Seasons**

Presented by Sitwell Singers  
28 Feb at 10am - 5pm - St. Peter's Church, Belper

# The Derwent Singers

Musical Director Dexter Drown

## ***CHRISTMAS CONCERT***

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2025

St Matthew's Church

Church Lane, Darley Abbey

[www.derwentsingers.org.uk](http://www.derwentsingers.org.uk)  
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### **The Derwent Singers**

The Derwent Singers were founded in 1968 by John Nixon with a small group of enthusiastic local singers and instrumentalists, and gave their first concert at Derby Cathedral in April of 1969. Since then things have gone from strength to strength and the choir has performed in many venues from cathedrals, churches, stately homes to village halls. The repertoire has ranged from renaissance to present day, either a cappella or accompanied.

Under our Musical Director Dexter Drown, recent concerts have included Rachmaninoff's All-Night Vigil (Vespers) and Handel's Israel in Egypt with small orchestra and choir soloists. There have been German and French-themed programmes, British choral music programmes including Gustaf and Imogen Holst, Stanford and Britten, a celebration of the works of William Byrd, as well as Brahms German Requiem with choir soloists and four-handed piano accompaniment (borrowing from the 1871 London performance). Last year the choir were Finalists in the 2024 Midlands Choir of the Year competition, as well as taking part in a highly enjoyable short tour performing in Bourton-on-the Water, Gloucester and Lichfield.

**Sopranos:** Hannah Asbury, Naomi Bailey, Debbie Castles, Jenni Curtis, Karen Norman, Katie Smith, Sarah Tambling, Siow Pin Wong.

**Altos:** Brenda Boyden, Katie Boyden, Laura Burns, Rosalind Burrows, Caroline Cheesman, Sylvia Glover, Andrea McGregor.

**Tenors:** Richard Arter, Mark Cheesman, Chris Goodall, Andy Ward.

**Basses:** Michael Castles, Christopher Jack, Len Johnson, David Tudor, Matt Walters

The Derwent Singers are always keen to hear from interested singers particularly tenors and basses. Rehearsals are on Thursday evenings during term time in Derby.

### **The Derwent Singers would like to thank the following companies for their generous donations towards this evening's raffle:**

Altar Rock Climbing session for 4 people

ALDI Hilton Hamper

Headlines by Julie Shampoo, Cut and Blowdry

The Greenery £10 Voucher

Etwall Leisure Centre Family Swim voucher

The Broadway Ember Inn Meal for 2 Voucher £30

Avon Gift Pack

The Beauty Hall, Hilton £50 voucher

Mosaic at the Mills Wellbeing Centre - Sip 'n' Paint event

One DZ Gym Free months' membership

One DZ Gym Coaching session

**Thank you for coming this evening.  
We would like to wish each and every one of you a  
peaceful Christmas and a very happy New Year!**



**Dexter Drown** is an imaginative and versatile conductor who has been praised for his utterly magical performances of passion, confidence, and flair.

Alongside his work as conductor of the professional chamber orchestra, The Sinfonia Stellaris, Dexter has worked with musicians from the Orchestra of the Swan on premiere recordings of new works, led concerts with contemporary music ensemble The Hadit Collective, Ensemble Ad libitum de Chambéry, and conducted the Midland Sinfonia. As well as his

work with professional orchestras, Dexter is the Musical Director of the Midland Concert Orchestra and follows in the footsteps of Malcolm Sargent as Musical Director of the Leicester Symphony Orchestra.

In addition to his passion for Orchestral music, Dexter is a distinguished and inspiring choral conductor and choir trainer. He has worked as chorus master for conductors including Sir Karl Jenkins, Toby Purser, and George Jackson in some of the UK's most prestigious venues, such as The Bridgewater Hall, Birmingham Symphony Hall, Liverpool Philharmonic Hall, Usher Hall, and St David's Hall. Dexter has worked with Ensemble Vocal Interlude (Grenoble), Chaddesley Voices, and is the Musical Director of Solihull Chandos Choir, Stourport Choral, conducts the East Oxford Community Choir and Orchestra, and is on the faculty of the Chester Choral Week, sharing his love of choral music with singers across the country.

In conjunction with his work with large choruses, Dexter is the conductor of the Nottingham Trent University Chamber Choir, helping shape the next generation of choral musicians, and the Musical Director of The Sitwell Singers and the award-winning Derwent Singers. His experience in choral excellence has been recognised with an invitation to adjudicate at the Bangor International Choral Festival.

Proudly State Educated, Dexter is as passionate about learning as he is about music making. He is the Winner of the Michael Beech Conducting Award and the Abingdon Music Festival Conducting Competition. Dexter gained a Master's in Orchestral Conducting with Distinction at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire and has been fortunate to participate in the Garsington Opera Conductor Mentorship Programme and Masterclasses with Kazuki Yamada, Nicholas Collon, Paul Murphy, Peter Stark, Kenneth Keisler, and Daniel Bortholossi.

## Programme

The boar's head carol ~ Arr. Elizabeth Poston

**ALL: O little town of Bethlehem ~ Arr. R. Vaughan Williams**

In dulci jubilo ~ Arr. R. L. Pearsall (1795-1856)

Away in a manger ~ Arr. Willcocks & Jacques

Jesus Christ the apple tree ~ Elizabeth Poston (1905-1987)

Lully Lulla, thou little tiny child ~ Kenneth Leighton (1929-1988)

O Magnum Mysterium ~ Morten Lauridsen (b.1943)

**ALL: O come all ye faithful ~ Arr. David Willcocks**

Gloucestershire Wassail ~ Arr. R. Vaughan Williams

## ~INTERVAL~

Carol of the bells ~ Mikola D. Leontovich (1877-1921)

**ALL: See amid the winter's snow ~ Arr. David Willcocks**

Past three o'clock ~ Arr. Charles Wood

I saw three ships ~ Arr. David Willcocks

Zither Carol ~ Arr. Malcolm Sargent

The holly and the ivy ~ Arr. Reginald Jacques

Three Kings ~ Peter Cornelius (1824-1874) arr. Atkins

**ALL: Hark! the herald angels sing ~ Mendelssohn**

What Cheer? ~ William Walton (1902-1983)

White Christmas ~ Irving Berlin (1888-1989)

### **O little town of Bethlehem**

1. O little town of Bethlehem  
How still we see thee lie  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by  
Yet in the dark streets shineth  
The everlasting Light  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight
2. O morning stars, together  
Proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the King,  
And peace to men on earth;  
For Christ is born of Mary,  
And, gathered all above.  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
Their watch of wondering love.

3. How silently, how silently  
The wondrous gift is given  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of His heaven  
No ear may hear His coming  
But in this world of sin  
Where meek souls will receive Him still  
The dear Christ enters in
4. O holy Child of Bethlehem  
Descend to us, we pray  
Cast out our sin and enter in  
Be born in us today  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell  
O come to us, abide with us  
Our Lord, Emmanuel

3. See how the shepherds  
Summoned to His cradle,  
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with  
lowly fear;  
We too will thither bend our joyful  
footsteps:  
O come...

4. Lo! Star-led chieftains, Magi, Christ  
adoring  
Offer Him incense, gold and myrrh;  
We to the Christ Child bring our  
hearts' oblation  
O come...

5. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in  
exultation  
Sing all ye citizens of heaven  
above!  
Glory to God in the highest  
O come...

### **O come, all ye faithful**

1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and  
triumphant!  
O come ye, O come ye, to  
Bethlehem  
Come and behold Him  
Born the King of Angels  
O come, let us adore Him  
O come, let us adore Him  
O come, let us adore Him  
Christ the Lord!
2. God of God, Light of Light  
Lo, He abhors not the Virgin's womb  
Very God Begotten, not created  
O come...

### **See amid the winter's snow**

1. See amid the winter's snow,  
Born for us on earth below;  
See the tender Lamb appears,  
Promis'd from eternal years.  
Hail, thou ever blessed morn,  
Hail, redemption's happy dawn;  
Sing through all Jerusalem,  
Christ is born in Bethlehem
2. Lo, within a manger lies  
He who built the starry skies;  
He who, throned in height sublime,  
Sits amid the cherubim;  
Hail, thou ever blessed morn, ...

### **Hark! the herald angels sing**

1. Hark! the herald angels sing,  
Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled.  
Joyful, all ye nations rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies,  
With th'angelic host proclaim:  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem."  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!"
2. Christ, by highest heav'n adored,  
Christ the everlasting Lord!  
Late in time behold Him come,  
Offspring of a Virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh, the Godhead see,  
Hail the incarnate Deity,  
Pleased as man with man to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!"

3. Say, ye holy shepherds, say  
What your joyful news today;  
Wherefore have ye left your  
sheep  
On the lonely mountain steep?  
Hail, thou ever blessed morn....
4. 'As we watched at dead of night,  
Lo, we saw a wondrous light;  
Angels singing "Peace on earth"  
Told us of the Saviour's birth':  
Hail, thou ever blessed morn....
5. Teach, O teach us Holy Child,  
By the face so meek and mild,  
Teach us to resemble thee,  
In thy meek humility:  
Hail, thou ever blessed morn....

3. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of  
Peace!  
Hail the Son of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings,  
Risen with healing in His wings.  
Mild He lays His glory by,  
Born that man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth,  
Born to give them second birth.  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
Glory to the newborn King!