

etc ADVERTISING FEATURE



Bearsden Choir was formed to perform Handel's Messiah as a one-off but continued due to the enthusiasm and talent of members

Celebrate 50 years of singing

JOAN MCFADDEN

BEARSDEN Choir is performing the Mass in B Minor by J S Bach in Glasgow City Halls on Sunday, May 19. Everyone involved is passionate about producing an absolutely breath-taking performance which will be the culmination of a series of special events celebrating the choir's Golden Jubilee.

This is the first time the choir has performed this work and Musical Director Andrew Nunn describes it as one of the biggest challenges of his career.

"This is a very special event," he says. "We're ending our 50th anniversary celebrations with the Mass in B Minor and also kicking off the next 50 years of the choir." Andrew continues: "At the behest of the then Lord Provost, David Fisher, Bearsden Choir was founded to perform Handel's Messiah as a one-off but kept on going because of the enthusiasm of the members."

"In December 2018 we performed the Messiah in Glasgow City Halls to mark our very special fiftieth anniversary."

Over the decades Bearsden Choir has become established as one of Scotland's most important and finest choirs. The membership, which currently stands at around 140, is drawn from across Greater Glasgow. Members of the choir come from all walks of life and all ages. The youngest member of the choir is just 18 whilst the oldest member is in their 80s.

Over the past five years the choir has put a lot of effort into attracting

new members which has seen numbers grow to the present 140. As a result, the demographic of the choir has been transformed. In particular there is large contingent of young singers, both men and women, in their late teens and early twenties, most of whom are students from diverse backgrounds and some of different nationalities, whose energy and enthusiasm has brought huge benefit to the choir.

At a time when teaching music in Scotland's schools is dwindling one of the choir's objectives is to ensure that a new generation of singers gets the chance to perform large scale choral works with orchestra. This is the ethos that inspired the unique Choral Education Project in 2016.

As Chairman, John Wotton, said: "In October 2016 the Education Project brought together over 250 children from 11 schools across Greater Glasgow who joined the choir, four professional soloists and the orchestra of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in a live performance of the Haydn Nelson Mass to a full house in Glasgow City Halls."

"The feedback from the children who took part confirmed just how much they had enjoyed the experience. Here are some of the things they said: "I thought it was absolutely amazing!" "I really enjoyed it. I thought participating with all of the other choirs at City Halls was great fun." "Such a great experience. If there's another chance to do something like this again, I would like to take part."

The choir's performances don't just thrill audiences, but its members too – all of whom are passionate

about music, get a huge thrill out of singing the choral masterpieces. Every Wednesday evening this vibrant group of musicians meet to rehearse, enjoy the music, work hard and have fun.

Whilst Bearsden Choir's roots are local, its present and future community are much wider which brings a diversity, vibrancy and a common desire to put on outstanding performances.

The 50th anniversary performance of the Messiah was one such outstanding performance and the Bach Mass in B Minor in May, which will feature the choir, together with five professional soloists, the McOpera Ensemble all under the baton of Andrew Nunn promises to be every bit as exciting and enthralling. It's an event that's truly something not to be missed.



MASS IN B MINOR JS BACH

SUNDAY 19TH MAY 2019 / 4:00PM
GLASGOW CITY HALLS

TICKETS:
City Halls Box Office,
Choir members or
enquiries@bearsdenchoir.co.uk

£20 / £17.50 / £5

BCC BEARSDEN CHOIR

