

Holmfirth Choral Society

President: Roger Bamforth
Conductor: Geoffrey Lockwood
Accompanist: John S. Bailey

All performances are in the Holmfirth Civic Hall commencing at 7.15pm

17
SEPTEMBER
2011

“The Black Knight”
(Elgar)
“Blest pair of sirens”
(Parry)
“Trial by Jury”
(Gilbert & Sullivan)

10
DECEMBER
2011

“St. Paul”
(Mendelssohn)
Accompanied by The Valley Sinfonia

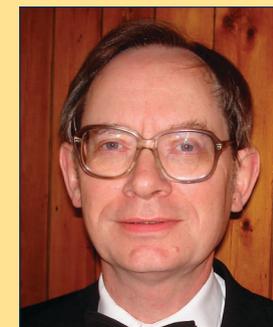
24
MARCH
2012

“Stabat Mater”
(Dvorak)
“Gloria”
(Vivaldi)
plus supporting short items
Accompanied by The Valley Sinfonia

the season ahead



Geoffrey Lockwood



From the first season of the current Holmfirth Choral Society in the 1940s the pattern of subscription concerts has not changed: the first concert in November, the second in December, and the third in March or early April. The December concert was until recently always a performance of Handel's *Messiah*, which the singers knew well and could perform on the basis of just four rehearsals after the November concert. More recently we have decided to perform other works in the December concert, widening our repertoire in the pre-Christmas season.

To create more rehearsal time for the December concert, the first subscription concert in the 2011-2012 season will be moved from November back to September. This will be on trial for a year, so comments will be appreciated from our audience.

The first concert features music by nineteenth century English composers. The first half includes Elgar's *The Black Knight*, a now little-known work written around 1890. The words are a translation by Longfellow of a ballad by the German poet Ludwig Uhland, and tell of the intrusion of a mysterious stranger into a king's court, with disastrous and gruesome result. The music is unmistakable Elgar, full of glorious melodies and lush harmonies. With the Elgar, we shall perform Parry's *Blest pair of sirens*, again set for chorus and accompaniment, without soloists. The second half of the concert will be in much lighter vein, in fact unusual for the society - a concert performance of the Gilbert and Sullivan comic operetta *Trial by Jury*. This part of the concert will feature local soloists, and will be accompanied by John Bailey.

The December concert consists of just one work - Mendelssohn's *St. Paul*. This is less often performed than *Elijah*, but is remarkably similar in construction. *St. Paul* will be accompanied by the Valley Sinfonia.

The March concert includes two major works: Dvorak's *Stabat Mater* and Vivaldi's *Gloria*. Dvorak's music is, like Mendelssohn's, full of memorable tunes and lush harmony. If you enjoy his *New World Symphony*, then you're sure to like this music too. Vivaldi's *Gloria* has been performed several times by Holmfirth Choral Society before, and by most other choirs too: this fact indicates its popularity. This third concert will also be accompanied by the Valley Sinfonia.