

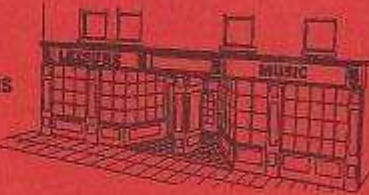


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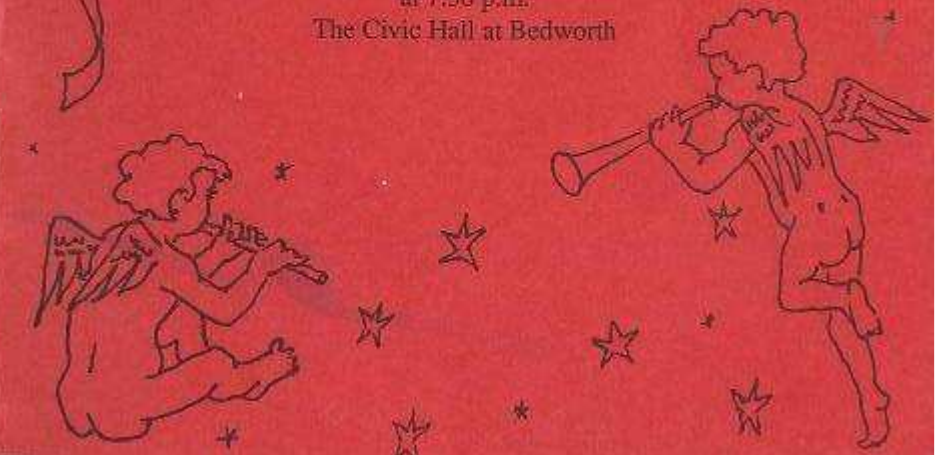
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Christmas Crackers

Atherstone Choral Society
and
The Eynsford Concert Band

Sunday 21st December 1997
at 7.30 p.m.
The Civic Hall at Bedworth





The Society would like to take this opportunity to express its thanks to the following for their help and co-operation in the staging of this concert:

Mr D. Matthews, the manager of Bedworth Civic Hall and his staff.

The Front of House staff.

The Friends of the Society

ATHERSTONE CHORAL SOCIETY

The Choir rehearses on Monday evenings at the Old Grammar School, Atherstone. Singers who wish to join are invited to contact the Membership Secretary or the General Administrator.

Membership demands dedication and a commitment to hard work to maintain the high standards the choir demands of itself. The choir is self funding and therefore relies on fund raising and background involvement (and a sense of humour).

Still Keen? - Ring Now - New Members are Welcome

Mrs Eileen Goddard (Membership Secretary) : 01203 347367

Mrs Jan Jones (General Administrator) : 01827 893375

Cover design by Sylvia Rochford

In accordance with the requirements of the Warwickshire County Council:-

- (i) The public may leave at the end of the performance or exhibition by all exit doors and such doors must at that time be open.*
- (ii) All gangways, corridors, staircases and external passageways intended for exit shall be kept entirely free from obstruction whether permanent or temporary.*
- (iii) Persons must not be permitted to stand or sit in any of the gangways intersecting the seating or to sit in any of the other gangways. If standing be permitted on the gangways at the sides and near by the seating, sufficient space must be left for persons to pass easily to and fro and have access to exits.*

NO SMOKING IN THE AUDITORIUM



In 1973 a small group of friends decided to revive the traditional singing of "Messiah" at Christmas. An advertisement gained the support of further enthusiasts which resulted in a performance of the oratorio in St. Mary's Church, Atherstone. Some of the group were keen to continue and so it was that in 1974 Bernard Powell became the first Musical Director of the newly formed Atherstone Choral Society. For 16 years his vision and inspiration took the choir from strength to strength. The choir is now one of the biggest in the Midlands with a membership of 100 voices. The present Musical Director, Lt. Col. (Ret'd) Philip Evans, had connections with the choir for a number of years when he directed the Band of the Corps of Royal Engineers on their visits to Bedworth Civic Hall. Following his retirement in 1995 he was appointed Director of Music of the choir and every Monday travels from Kent for rehearsals.

Membership is drawn from a wide area and new members are always welcome. The choir has sung in many famous concert halls throughout the country and has also sung abroad on concert tours in Germany, Austria and France. In May 1995 some members travelled to Paris where they sang in the Mass at the Sacré Coeur and also to critical acclaim in St. Sulpice.

The choir always performs to a high standard with professional orchestras and soloists, brass and military bands. The Society also encourages young performers as for Messiah in Hinckley when the choir was supported by four music students singing the solo parts to an extremely high standard. Variety is a key to the success of the choir and most of the major works have been performed as well as some 250 part songs - popular and more serious classics are all part of the repertoire. This is what attracted Colonel Evans and brings him on a weekly journey to Atherstone. So, if you sing and would like to join the choir please contact us.

MUSICAL DIRECTOR
ATHERSTONE CHORAL SOCIETY
LT. COL. (Ret'd) PHILIP EVANS LTCL, A(Mus)LCM, psm

Col. Evans began his links with Atherstone Choral Society back in March 1987. This was the first concert with the Band of the Corps of Royal Engineers and its success ensured repeat visits. Having relinquished his baton as Director of Music, Royal Engineers Band, early in 1995, he has now retired from the Army and agreed to become our Director.

Col. Evans began his Army career in 1959. In 1971 he passed out of Kneller Hall School of Music as top British Student, winning many awards. One of the high spots of his early career was being a member of the Royal Trumpeters at Caernarvon during the Investiture of HRH Prince Charles as Prince of Wales. In 1976 he was appointed Senior Bandmaster of the British Army and School Bandmaster at the Royal Military School of Music. This meant that throughout the Queen's Silver Jubilee Year he had the honour of conducting the Royal Trumpeters. He was commissioned in 1979. There then followed a series of Directing appointments. In 1985 he was appointed Director of Music of the Royal Artillery (Alanbrooke) Band followed by his appointment as Director of Music, Band of the Corps of Royal Engineers where he finished his military career.

In 1989 and 1992 Col. Evans directed Atherstone Choral Society in performances of Handel's "Messiah". We now look forward to a long and successful partnership.

ROBERT RAMSKILL
Society Accompanist

Robert comes originally from Leeds and, after studying music at the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, moved to the Midlands in 1975 to take up an appointment as lecturer at Coventry School of Music. He is now a Senior Lecturer in Music at Coventry University. In addition to his teaching work Robert has continued to be involved in practical music-making as an accompanist, and as a composer/arranger. His extensive catalogue of compositions includes a Tuba Concerto, several works for solo piano and an anthem specially written for the choristers of St. Paul's Cathedral. He has also written a number of albums for brass instruments which are published by Brasswind Publications and from which pieces are now set in the syllabuses of all major practical examination boards. Robert is also a regular arranger for BBC television's "Songs of Praise" programme.

EYNSFORD CONCERT BAND

The members of Eynsford Concert Band are pleased to be revisiting Bedworth, having enjoyed performing in the 1995 and '96 Christmas concerts. The band are once again grateful for the hospitality of Atherstone Choral Society and happy to share the stage with these talented singers.

This happy association has come about thanks to Phil Evans, whose hard work goes further than the responsibility of holding the baton on the big night. Phil has done much behind the scenes to bring this, our fourth concert, to fruition. He couples his organisational and musical talents with the ability to strike fear into a forty strong concert band during our rehearsals at Eynsford!

The village of Eynsford in Kent may seem little-known, but should be thought of as a well-kept secret. The village is one of Kent's most beautiful and historic, and serves as base for the band's ventures. These have included tours and performances in Malta, Cyprus, Austria, Canada, Spain, Germany and most recently a visit to Southern Ireland. The band has also been lucky enough to have played with the London Philharmonic Orchestra in the Royal Albert Hall and performed several times at the Queen Elizabeth Hall on London's South Bank.

One of the band's greatest achievements to date is the recording of an album, "By the Ford". This was the result of an intensive course of practice and tuition from members of the BBC Orchestra, creating an exciting and varied musical programme. This recording is available tonight for purchase during the interval at £10 on CD and £7 on tape.

Though the Eynsford Concert Band has come a long way since its humble classroom beginnings in 1972, the roots of the band are not forgotten as the band often support local events and charities. The band's village location means that the chance to get together and consider past performances and future plans is never far away - in one of the numerous local pubs!

RECORDINGS BY ACS

Currently there are two A.C.S. tapes available in the foyer:

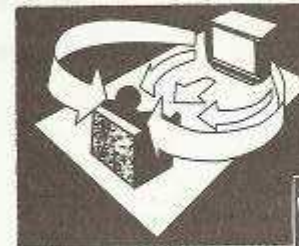
SHOWTIME

ACS with the orchestra of the Corps of Royal Engineers
Contents: The Sound of Music, Cats, Flower Drum Song, Phantom of the Opera
My Fair Lady, Les Miserables, Love changes everything, A Chorus Line

CONTRASTS

ACS with the Regimental Band of the Coldstream Guards
Contents: I was glad, One hand, one heart, Glenn Miller Selection, Kalinka
Post Horn Galop, American Hymn, Lennon/McCartney, English Minuet
Rhythm of Life, Prelude

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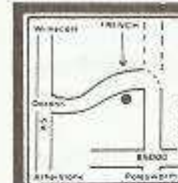


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Have you got a wedding planned in your family? Do you need a choir? Many churches are now without a resident choir but do not despair.....

Atherstone Choral Society can provide a group of up to 30 singers to enhance the enjoyment of the marriage service. Want to know more? Telephone Jan Jones, General Administrator 01827 893375

Programme



ATHERSTONE CHORAL SOCIETY
 Director of Music: Lt. Col. (Ret'd) P.R. Evans
 Accompanist: Robert Ramskill
 with
 THE EYNSFORD CONCERT BAND

Eynsford
 Concert
 Band

| | | |
|-----------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| Band Overture | Christmas Melodies | Woodfield |
| Audience Carol | Once in Royal David's City | |
| Choir | a) When a child is born b) Chestnuts | arr Powell Wells / Tormé |
| Band | A Fireside Christmas | arr Evans |
| Audience Carol | Away in a Manger | Traditional |
| Choir | a) The pipes of peace b) Feel Good | McCartney arr Evans |
| Audience Carol | Ding Dong merrily on high | |
| Choir & Band | White Christmas | Berlin |

Interval — 20 minutes



| | | |
|-----------------------|--|---|
| Band | Christmas Festival | Anderson |
| Audience Carol | O Come all ye faithful | |
| Choir | a) Somewhere over the rainbow b) Only a winter's tale | arr Powell Batt / Rice arr Powell |
| Band | Sleigh Ride | Anderson |
| Choir & Band | Hallelujah Chorus from 'Messiah' | Handel |
| Audience Carol | Hark the herald Angel | Mendlessohn |
| Band | Beauty and the Beast | arr Moss |
| Finale | The Sound of Music | Rodgers |

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

It is a great pleasure for me to welcome you to this our Annual Christmas concert. Our Musical Director Phil Evans has compiled a seasonal programme of popular music for us all to sing, including all of you in the audience as well. I am delighted also to welcome once again the Eynsford Concert Band who have travelled up from Kent to be with us. I'm sure that the combined efforts of the choir and band will put us all in a great Christmas mood to take us into the Festival period and ensure a wonderful start to a week of Christmas festivities.

I want to express my sincere thanks to all of you in our audience who have supported us through another year. We value that support tremendously. The choir Treasurer and the committee seem to be faced with the never ending problem of 'making ends meet'. We do our best to keep ticket prices as low as possible to encourage your support and a full audience. We hope we can go on looking forward to that support. Do make a note of our forthcoming concerts.

The choir membership is in excess of one hundred singers. Unfortunately not every member can sing on every concert. If there are any among you who would like to join us we would be pleased to hear from you. We are recruiting singers in all sections of the choir. Please have a word with our membership Secretary - Eileen Goddard - if you are interested or would like more details!

May I take this opportunity of wishing you all a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Terry Barber

(Chairman)

FUTURE CONCERTS 1998

Sunday March 22nd 1998 The Civic Hall at Bedworth 7.30 p.m.
A.C.S. with The Band of the Royal Engineers

Sunday July 5th 1998 The Civic Hall at Bedworth 7.30 p.m.
A.C.S. with The Band of the Coldstream Guards

Tickets for both concerts are £10, £8 and £5 and can be obtained from The Civic Hall or

Joan Tomlinson - ticket secretary Tel: 01455 290840

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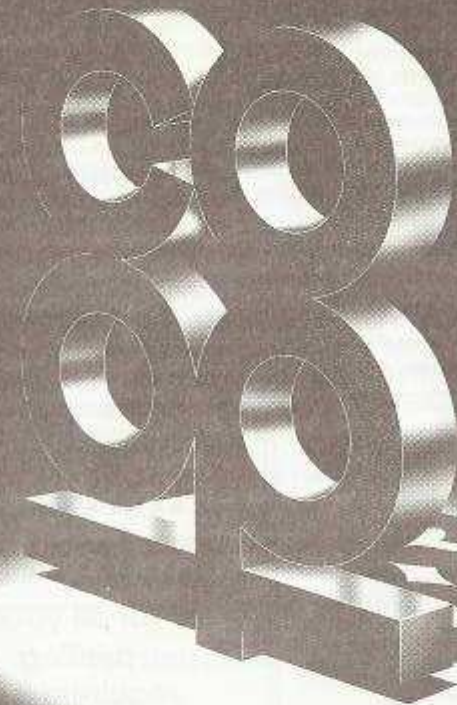
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AUDIENCE CAROLS - first half

Once in royal David's city
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby
In a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven,
Who is God and Lord of all,
And his shelter was a stable,
And his cradle was a stall;
With the poor, and mean, and lowly,
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.

And through all his wondrous childhood
He would honour and obey,
Love and watch the lowly maiden,
In whose gentle arms he lay:
Christian children all must be
Mild, obedient, good as he.

And our eyes at last shall see him,
Through his own redeeming love,
For that child so dear and gentle,
Is our Lord in heaven above;
And he leads his children on
To the place where he is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable,
With the oxen standing by,
We shall see him; But in heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high;
When like stars his children crowned
All in white shall wait around.

Away in a manger,
No crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky
Looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing,
The baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love thee Lord Jesus!
Look down from the sky,
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me Lord Jesus;
I ask thee to stay
Close by me for ever, and love me I pray.
Bless all the dear children
In thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

Ding dong! merrily on high
in heaven the bells are ringing:
Ding dong! verily the sky
is riv'n with angel-singing:
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis

E'en so here below, below,
let steeple bells be swungen,
And i-o, i-o, i-o,
by priest and people sungen:

Pray you, dutifully prime
your matin chime, ye ringers:
May you beautifully rime
your evetime song, ye singers:

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ARTICLES TO INCLUDE IN OUR PROGRAMME

A member of ACS has contributed an article to add interest to the programme for tonight's concert. Maybe other ACS members or members of the audience would like to put pen to paper and offer an item for our future programmes. We want to make our programme more interesting and provide some reading material for those who do not spend the interval in the bar!!

In addition we are also looking for new advertisers for the 1998 concert programmes. If you have a business in the area please contact us. Please send your article or enquiry about advertising to Joan Tomlinson, Ticket and Programme Secretary, Meadow View Cottage, Osbaston, Nuneaton, Warks. CV13 0DR.

AUDIENCE CAROLS - second half

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.

God of God,
Light of Light,
Lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God,
Begotten not created;

O come, let us adore him,

Sing choirs of Angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing all ye citizens of heav'n above
Glory to God
in the highest:

O come, let us adore him,

Hark! the herald-angels sing
"Glory to the new-born King,
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise;
Join the triumph of the skies;
With the Angelic host proclaim,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.

Hark! the herald-angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.

Christ, by highest heaven 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 new-born King.

Hail the heaven-born Prince of
Peace!

Hail the Sun 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 new-born King.

