

## ***Welcome to our new Season!***

Don't forget, our 2018-19 season commences this week; **rehearsals start on Tuesday, 4th September at Holy Trinity Primary School at 7.30pm.**

Programming a season of choral concerts commences a long time beforehand but the first concert of this season was pencilled in and sketched out five years ago - a commemoration of the anniversary of the end of the fighting in the First World War.

Following our concert, *It Begins: The Great War*, on 11th November 2014 marking the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the war we commemorate the 100th anniversary of the cessation of hostilities on Tuesday, 6th November, with our concert ***The Great War: Armistice***. This will, like our commemorative concert in November 2014, be a mixture of music, poetry and prose, this time briefly outlining the events that led to the Armistice but also telling the stories of four local people who served on the front line, three men - William Roberts, Walter Scott MC and George Peachment VC - and one woman, Leonie Ashworth, a Belgian by birth who later cared for Belgian refugees before following her husband to Egypt and serving as a nurse.

The concert and commemoration will include Ralph Vaughan Williams' *Dona Nobis Pacem* and music by John Ireland and Herbert Howells. We will also be singing Peter Skellern's *Rest in Peace (And Rise in Glory)*, commissioned by the BBC for a Remembrance Day event and commemorating not only the dead of two World Wars but also the victims of the 11th September atrocities. Peter Skellern was born in Bury and was a popular composer and singer, noted for his hit song, *You're a Lady*, who was a Christian and in later life was ordained as a priest; he died of cancer, aged 69, in February 2017.

### **PETER SKELLERN 1947-2017**

As part of our *Christmas Festivities* concert last December (2017) we performed a carol by the late Peter Skellern, and will be performing his ***Rest in Peace (And Rise in Glory)*** in our first concert in November. Shortly before the concert we received an email from a Peter Skellern devotee and ex-Bury man, David Riggs, who moved to Australia with his family 20 years ago and today lives in Canberra. He is a choral singer and somehow or other heard that we would be singing a piece and wrote that he would post our proposed performance on the Peter Skellern Facebook.

David Riggs visited from Australia in May when he attended our Puccini/Rossini concert at Bury Parish Church. David has been in contact again in the last few days and writes:

*I enjoyed your concert in May and it was good to meet you. I don't know to what extent you and your members would be interested in participating in a crowd funding project for Peter's work with Decca. Essentially provided enough funders commit at least 20 pounds in the next couple of weeks, they will have a CD in return free of further charge except postage of all Peter's work with Decca.*

*Peter's music is rare. Tuneful, north country, interesting, well observed too. It may be that some your members would be interested themselves and could support and pass on to others who might be.*

[https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/740295353/peter-skellern-complete-decca-recordings-limited-c?ref=user\\_menu](https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/740295353/peter-skellern-complete-decca-recordings-limited-c?ref=user_menu)

*Please note that the fundraising goes only for a couple of further weeks so time is of the essence.*

If you would like to support this project, and receive a copy of the recorded works, then please respond as soon as possible and certainly within the next week.

See you at rehearsal!

Graham Bolton  
Chairman