

WIMBLEDON CHORAL

PRESIDENT Ian Partridge CBE
MUSICAL DIRECTOR Daniel Mahoney

Please reply to:

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September 13 2024

Dear Friend of Wimbledon Choral

We have begun a new musical era at Wimbledon Choral. We embarked on the 2024/2025 singing season and warmly welcomed Daniel Mahoney as our new MD. We look forward to working with Daniel and enjoying any new challenges his leadership brings.

June 29 ended the 2023/24 season, and our 15 wonderful years with Neil Ferris as our MD. We celebrated with a concert comprising the Choir, Neil, Michael, and you – our audience – the core “quartet” of the period. I hope Neil felt we carried off our last shared event successfully. The Concert - Reflections and Inspirations - considered times past whilst inspiring us to welcome the changes which would occur between last season and this. Thank you to those able to join us. In addition to the music, you will have heard Ian Partridge, our President, speak of Neil’s time with the Choir and seen photos being taken marking the end of an era. The last note of Hail Gladding Light by Wood rang around the wonderful acoustic of Holy Trinity. It remains in my memory and perhaps that of others. A programme will follow as a memento. We hope you enjoy it.

It was good to see Friends of WCS at Neil’s farewell gathering on July 1. Trinity URC was busy with flowers being arranged, balloons blown up, tables set, posters arranged and, above all, food prepared. When guests arrived, the Hall was festive and joyous. Our Chairman, Alex Youel, spoke and it was then Neil’s turn. His speech was reflective (casting back over the years) and inspiring (exhorting us to support singing and involve future generations). After speeches came remembrances: a glorious cake made by a Choir member, a card, a book of memories, a bound collection of flyers from Concerts Neil conducted, a famed photo of the da Vinci Requiem performance at the RFH, a collection from Choir Members.

We are sad to lose Neil. He has been an inspiration. The positive impact he had on WCS is impossible to describe – those who have sung, and those who have listened, over the period will have heard it. We were lucky to have Neil lead us during these years.

We are also lucky that Daniel Mahoney will now guide Wimbledon Choral. We look forward to the new era under his musical directorship. Our first shared Concert will be on **November 16** at Holy Trinity, Sloane Square. **Please put the date in your diaries.**

Please may I remind you that now is the time you are invited to renew your Friendship of Wimbledon Choral for another year. Thank you for your invaluable, ongoing, and much appreciated support.

Kindest Regards and I hope you had a most enjoyable Summer.



Colleen Spalding
Friends of Wimbledon Choral

WIMBLEDON CHORAL

REFLECTIONS & INSPIRATIONS

An evening of new
choral pieces
inspired by old
choral favourites

Saturday,
29 June 2024
7:30pm

Neil Ferris Conductor
Michael Higgins Piano

Holy Trinity, Sloane Square
London SW1X 9BZ



WIMBLEDON
CHORAL

09 – 24
15 YEARS OF FABULOUS
MUSIC-MAKING

FAREWELL TO NEIL

1ST JULY, 2024 - 19:30

THE END OF AN ERA,
FEATURING:

PUFFY
CHEEKS

AIR
VOWELS

'JUST SING
BETTER!'

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