

Simon Bell (Director of Music)

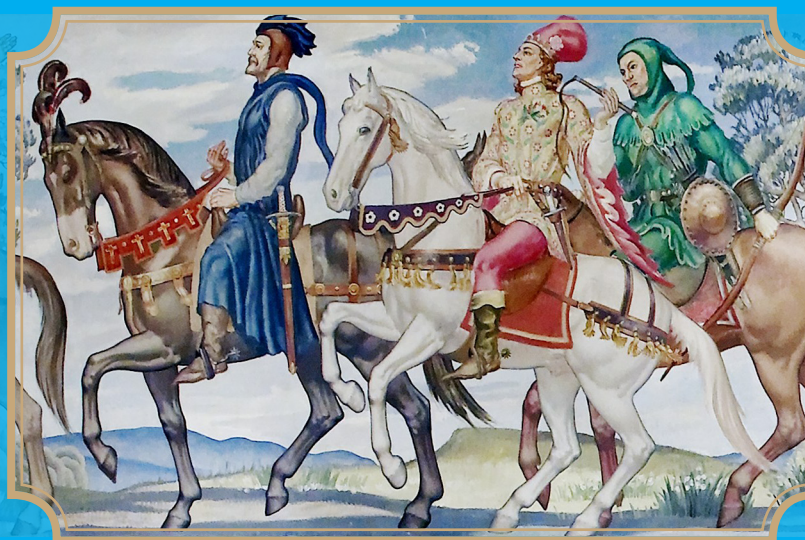
Simon became the Musical Director of Stroud Choral Society in March 2020. Under his direction, the society has performed a wide range of works from the oratorio repertoire, including Bach *St Matthew Passion*, three oratorios by Handel, Vaughan Williams *A Sea Symphony* and Elgar *The Dream of Gerontius*. Simon is also Director of Choral Music and Organist at Dean Close School in Cheltenham, and directs the choristers and lay clerks of Tewkesbury Abbey Schola Cantorum in the weekday services at the Abbey. The choir broadcasts regularly on BBC Radio 3 and in recent years has performed in France, The Netherlands, Sweden and Germany.

Joanna Greaves (Accompanist)

Joanna is Assistant Musical Director and Accompanist for Stroud Choral Society. Her interest in collaborative music-making flourished whilst studying at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama for a postgraduate diploma in piano accompaniment. She now enjoys a freelance career accompanying and coaching solo singers, examining music, and teaching the Alexander Technique to enable musicians to become balanced and confident performers. Joanna has accompanied numerous choirs, in both rehearsal and performance, and she has also enjoyed a busy career within music education.

SCS Adult, Youth and Children's Choirs

We are a friendly, longstanding, non-auditioned Choral Society with big ambitions, such that under the excellent tuition of our professional musicians we have recently sung the Bach *St Matthew Passion* in Tewkesbury Abbey (March 2026), where we were joined by the choristers of the Abbey Schola Cantorum and our own Youth Choir. Our Youth and Children's Choirs are led by **Zoë Hynes** (MD) and **Nicola Jee** (accompanist) and perform in many concerts per year, including with the Adult Choir.



'Chaucer's amusingly ironic depictions and Dyson's memorable tunes and imaginative orchestrations are a winning combination. If you like Gerontius, Vaughan Williams, and Ireland, you'll like Dyson.' (BBC Music)

George Dyson was born in 1883 in Halifax and during his life time was a celebrated composer, broadcaster and teacher. *The Canterbury Pilgrims*, which was first performed in Winchester, quickly established itself as one of Dyson's most celebrated works. It has been less well known in the 21st century, so Stroud Choral Society is delighted to have the opportunity to perform it.

George Dyson

The Canterbury Pilgrims

Come with us to the Tabard Inn where a group of pilgrims are preparing to travel to Canterbury. *The Canterbury Pilgrims* by George Dyson is a colourful oratorio written in 1931 using words inspired by Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* to create vivid portraits of a number of the pilgrims. Here are the honourable Knight, the Nun, the earthly pleasure-loving Monk and the learned Clerk of Oxenford, amongst other hopeful travellers.

with the Bristol Ensemble and three soloists

Saturday 21st November
2026, 7 pm
Tewkesbury Abbey
Tickets £25, £15*

Friday 18th December
2026, 7.30 pm
A Christmas Celebration
Carol concert and readings
With the Stroud Choral Society Children's Choir,
The Minpins
St Laurence Stroud Centre
for Peace and the Arts
Tickets £15*

Saturday 13th March
2027, 7 pm
Beethoven
Coriolan overture and Choral Fantasy for piano, orchestra, soloists and chorus
Haydn
Te Deum, Harmoniemesse
With the Bristol Ensemble
St John Baptist Cirencester
Tickets £25, £20, £5*

Saturday 19th June
2027, 7 pm
Songs for Summer
A selection of songs to celebrate summer
With the Stroud Choral Youth Choir
St George's Church,
Nailsworth
Tickets £15*



www.stroudchoral.org



Free admission for students,
under 18s and carers



Join us for a free glass of wine
after the Summer concert!



Would you like to sing?

Whether you sing regularly, or haven't uttered a note for years, Stroud Choral Society welcomes you (especially tenors!) We offer you two free taster sessions before committing yourself to join us. Click on this link to our website www.stroudchoral.org and follow the links to **JOIN US** – either Adult or Children's Choir.

Stroud

Choral Society

2026–27 Season



Illustrations: *Canterbury Tales* by Ezra Winter (1886–1949),
Library of Congress, John Adams Building, Washington DC.
Photograph by Carol Highsmith (2007).
Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons.



www.stroudchoral.org

Stroud Choral Society
www.stroudchoral.org

Charity no.
1198620

Stroud Choral Society is
affiliated to Making Music