



Skipton Choral Society

Robert Flower *The Old Cottage Appletreewick Skipton BD23 6DD*
July 2017

SPONSORS, PATRONS & FRIENDS SCHEME

You may be aware that, despite Yorkshire's place at the very heart of the magnificent tradition of choral music in England, there was no permanent choir in Skipton until as recently as 2013.

In that year Ben Crick, founder and conductor of the Skipton Camerata orchestra, decided to celebrate the orchestra's tenth anniversary by putting on a performance of Haydn's wonderful oratorio *The Creation*. For this he obviously needed a choir, so he created one from scratch.

The singers enjoyed the experience so much that they came together again for *An Evening at the Opera*, as a highlight of Skipton's hosting of Yorkshire Week later in 2013. That led to the establishment of the choir as a regular Choral Society, and to more performances of some of the great choral works including Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, Bach's *St John Passion*, Rossini's *Petite Messe Solennelle*, and Beethoven's *Choral Symphony*.

Early in 2015 Ben decided that the combination of orchestra and choir was no longer viable, so the choir recreated itself, as the Skipton Choral Society. Under our first conductor, Toby Wardman, we gave three concerts, plus a Christmas concert, which attracted large audiences and were much appreciated. Unfortunately the Brexit vote meant that Toby had to leave us at the end of 2016 to take up a job in Brussels. He is sorely missed.

His place was briefly taken by Yonni Levy, under whom we gave a concert on 8 April, singing Vivaldi's amazing *Gloria* and other works. Our next concert was on 14 July, which turned out to be a superb event. Our Vice-President, and renowned soprano, Sarah Fox, joined us in performances of operatic works, and the much-loved *Requiem* by Gabriel Fauré, in the glorious surroundings of Bolton Abbey.

The evening also saw the launch of our new Sponsors, Patrons and Friends Scheme. The aim of the scheme is to enable the choir and its audience to form a closer and deeper connection with one another, while also contributing to the financial strength and stability of the choir. It is particularly gratifying that the launch was performed by another of our Vice-Presidents, Harry Gratton of BBC North, and that it had the blessing of our President, the Duke of Devonshire.

We are very much hoping that our friends and supporters will join the scheme in one capacity or another. If you can see your way to doing so, please complete an application form (available to download from our website)

www.skiptonchoralsociety.com

and return it to Robert Flower, The Old Cottage, Appletreewick, Skipton, BD23 6DD.

Thank you.