Our next concert:

7:30pm Saturday 12th December 2026

St Mary's Church, Calne

The concert will include "When Icicles Hang" by John Rutter and other music

www.calnechoral.co.uk

Registered Charity Number: 801131

Calne Choral

An Evening at the Opera!

7:30pm

Saturday 4th July 2026

St Mary's Church, Calne

Programme

Programme Notes

Tonight's first half celebrates the power, drama, and sheer variety of the European operatic chorus. We open and close with two pieces from Verdi, the rhythmic grit of the famous Anvil Chorus and glamorous paean to the good life with the Brindisi from La Traviata. Italian opera is further represented by the Villager's Chorus from William Tell and the Humming Chorus from Madame Butterfly, as well as extracts of the later realist school of opera, with the Bell Chorus from Leoncavallo's Pagliacci mimicking the chime of evening church bells and the Easter Hymn delivering a soaring climax of faith and heartbreak. We range across the rest of the world as well, from the Steppes of Central Asia in Borodin's Polovtsian Dances to the Swiss Alps of William Tell, by way of Japan with Puccini's Madama Butterfly and even England, for the exciting folksong-style round Old Joe Has Gone Fishing from Britten's Peter Grimes.

The second half then shifts focus to the modern successors of the operatic tradition: the blockbusters of musical theatre. We first explore a selection from Bernstein's *West Side Story*. This suite captures the full emotional arc of Leonard Bernstein's landmark 1957 masterpiece. It ranges from the optimistic energy of "Something's Coming" and the sharp, witty rhythms of "America" to the rapturous romance of "Tonight" and the yearning, utopian hope of "Somewhere". We then move to "Summertime" *(Porgy and Bess*) which bridges the worlds of opera and musical theatre. Originally written as a sultry, jazz-infused lullaby, Gershwin's immortal standard leaves us wrapped in a warm, timeless melody. Lastly, Schönberg & Boublil's *Les Misérables* highlights the incredible dramatic range of this global phenomenon, ranging from the thrilling, revolutionary defiance of "At the End of the Day" and "Do You Hear the People Sing?" to the intimate emotional power of "I Dreamed a Dream," "On My Own," and the breathtaking prayer, "Bring Him Home."

Calne Choral Society

Calne Choral Society was founded in 1886 and so has been entertaining the audiences of Calne for 140 years!

Why not come and sing with us? There is no audition, and you can try us out before deciding. We rehearse on most Mondays during term time in Marden House, in the centre of Calne.

Rehearsals for our Christmas concert on Saturday 12th December will start on Monday 7th September.

If you want to get in touch, please use the email addresses from our website:

www.calnechoral.co.uk

An Evening at the Opera

Conductor:	**James Green**
Soprano Solo:	**Alice Gold**
Tenor Solo:	**Richard Stark**
Piano	**Jemima Palfreyman**

Choir Members

Soprano: Jackie Ball, Sarah Beach, Emmy Butcher, Wendy Carter, Ruth Chadwick, Rosemary Devlin, Jill Downey, Madelaine Flight, Jane Giles, Caroline Potter, Jenny Reynolds, Rosemary Ringrose, Anne Rumming, Margaret Thorne, Hilary Wright.

Alto: Helen Davies, Wendy Halls, Carole Hill, Fiona Lockwood, Sylvia Newton, Mary Pitcher-Clayton, Ann Stiff, Karen Taylor, Elizabeth Lloyd-Davies, Margaret Pearce, Margaret Waters, Carol Watkinson

Tenor: Stephen Butcher, Trevor Dahl, David Gillett, Tony Jones, Julie Spencer, George Tedbury.

Bass: Ewen Bird, Eric Brakes, Caspar Bush, Simon Chadwick, Anthony Foster, Simon Hopkins, Fearnley Martin.

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An Evening at the Opera

The Anvil Chorus
from "Il Trovatore" Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901)

The Villager's Chorus
from "William Tell" Gioachino Rossini (1792-1868)

The Polovtsian Dances
from "Prince Igor" Alexander Borodin (1833-1887)

The Easter Hymn
from "Cavalleria Rusticana" Pietro Mascagni (1863-1945)

Solo interlude:

Soprano Solo: Non Su Piu
from "The Marriage of Figaro" Wolfgang Mozart (1756-1791)

Tenor Solo: Di Provenze il Mar
from "La Traviata" Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901)

Old Joe has gone Fishing
from "Peter Grimes" Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)

The Humming Chorus
from "Madam Butterfly" Giacomo Puccini (1858-1924)

The Bell Chorus
from "Pagliacci" Buggero Leoncavallo (1857-1919)

Brindisi
from "La Traviata" Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901)

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West Side Story – Choral Suite
Music Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990)
Lyrics Stephen Sondheim (1930-2021) Arranged by Mac Huff
The arrangement has four movements:

1) **Something's Coming • Tonight**
2) **Maria • One Hand, One Heart**
3) **I Feel Pretty • Cool • America**
4) **Somewhere**

Solo interlude:

Soprano Solo: By the Sea
from: "Sweeney Todd" Stephen Sondheim (1930-2021)

Tenor Solo: Stars
from: "Les Misérables" Claude-Michel Schönberg (1944-)

Summertime
from "Porgy and Bess" George Gershwin (1898-1937)

Les Misérables – Choral Medley
Music Claude-Michel Schönberg (1944-)
Lyrics Alain Boublil, Jen-Marc Natel and Herbert Kretzmer
Arranged by Ed Lojeski
The arrangement is continuous with the following songs:

1) **At the End of the Day**
2) **I Dreamed a Dream**
3) **Castle on a Cloud**
4) **Do You Hear the People Sing?**
5) **On My Own**
6) **Bring Him Home**
7) **Finale**