

Chorus of approval for anniversary concert

THE Vivace Chorus, previously known as the Guildford Philharmonic Choir, celebrates its 60th anniversary with a concert on Saturday, May 17 in Guildford Cathedral.

Britten's *Te Deum* opens the concert. This work is most often heard in a liturgical setting with

organ accompaniment, but here the Vivace Chorus gives it a rare outing in the version for choir, harp and strings.

The choir will also sing the *Cantique de Jean Racine* by Fauré. One of Elgar's most popular pieces is *Nimrod* from the *Enigma Variations*. At the cathe-

dral, it can be heard in an arrangement for choir alone, using an extract from the Latin requiem, *Lux aeterna*. The orchestra will play two popular pieces for strings – Samuel Barber's *Adagio for strings* and the *Adagietto from the Symphony no.5* by Gustav Mahler.

Neil Martin, 63, has been singing with the choir for 28 years, and says: "From the very first rehearsal I attended it was obvious this was a friendly and stimulating choir. I have sung with a number of large choirs with fine reputations, but have never come across such a won-

derful combination of musical director (Jeremy Backhouse) and accompanist (Jeremy Filsell).

"Each has an extraordinary talent, ensuring standards reached by the choir are very high and always improving. Not only is the standard of concerts – usually accompanied by top London

orchestra, The Brandenburg Sinfonia – excellent, but the range of our repertoire is huge."

Tickets for the concert on Saturday, May 17 can be bought from Michael Taylor on tickets@vivacechorus.org or see the choir's website for more details: www.vivacechorus.org.