

## A Short Interview

Neville Creed is Chorusmaster of the Guildford Philharmonic Choir from Guildford, ~~the twinned~~ the British twin town of Freiburg. This evening (Saturday) the choir is going to sing in the minster together with Freiburger Bachchor.

Reporter of "Badische Zeitung:" Are you and your choir in Freiburg for the 1st time ?"

Creed: "Yes, we are. The idea of our visit and the exchange with Freiburger Bachchor was realized because Freiburg and Guildford are twinned. The Freiburger Bachchor had come to Guildford a few months ago in April for the first time, and this is our return visit."

- Rep.: Did you as well sing together then? -
- Cr. : In Guildford the two choirs performed in a common concert together with the Guildford Philharmonic Orchestra. Our Orchestra and the choir have existed since 1945. The members of the choir are amateurs, but some of them take singing lessons. And who wants to sing with us must pass an audition which has to be repeated every 3 years.
- Rep.: What is your repertoire?
- Cr.: We focus on Handel, Beethoven, Verdi, Bach and similar composers like Freiburger Bachchor. But we have also works of British 20th century composers in our repertoire. Usually we have six concerts a year.
- Rep.: How many members has your choir and how many have come to Freiburg for the exchange ?
- Cr.: We have about 150 members, about half of them have joined the exchange, that is roughly 75 singers. We hope to promote friendships by this exchange. The members of Freiburger Bachchor had stayed with our choir members in April. Now the Guildford visitors stay with members of Freiburger Bachchor; this creates friendship. Some people from Freiburger Bachchor have already come back to Guildford again after their visit in April, this being a sign of beginning friendship. For us it is interesting to know foreign countries and to perform and sing there.
- Rep.: What about language problems when you sing together?
- Cr. : Music is an international language. We however do not only sing in English but in the respective language of the composer, the same as Freiburger Bachchor - and this is why it works.
- Rep.: This evening you will perform together with Freiburger Bachchor - what are you going to sing ?
- Cr.: We will sing the "Messiah" by Handel in the minster. The concert begins at 7 p.m..