




Vivace
Chorus

Rotary in Guildford and
Vivace Chorus present

A close-up photograph of a Christmas tree branch with green needles, a large brown pinecone, and several red and white ornaments. Warm, glowing lights are visible in the background, creating a bokeh effect.

THE MAYOR OF GUILDFORD'S **CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

Conductor: Barbara Höfling

in aid of
**The Cheryl King Trust
& The Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice**

**Sunday
14 Dec 2025
at 7pm**

Holy Trinity Church, Guildford.

rotaryinguildford.org
vivacechorus.org



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A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR OF GUILDFORD

Councillor Howard Smith



I am delighted to be joining you this evening for the Mayor's Annual Christmas Concert. By attending you will be supporting two excellent local charities: The Cheryl King Trust and Phyllis Tuckwell.

Having enjoyed playing music from an early age I strongly believe that all young people should have the opportunity to learn to play a musical instrument. That's why I chose to support The Cheryl King Trust during my Mayoral year. This fabulous charity helps with funds so that young people in Surrey can learn to play a musical instrument when their parents can't afford it. Music lessons can be

expensive! They achieve it by providing bursaries for instrument lessons and grants for music ensembles.

Christmas is a time of warmth, togetherness, and cherished memories with family and friends. But for some, the festive season can be bittersweet, especially when they or someone they love is facing a terminal illness. Phyllis Tuckwell provides free, compassionate hospice care and other services to adults and families living with advanced or terminal conditions such as cancer, heart, lung, or neurological disease. Their support helps people make the most of every moment, because every day is precious.

I would like to thank Rotary in Guildford for organising tonight's concert and for their charitable support to the Guildford community for over 100 years. Their support to our local charities has been amazing. I would also like to thank the Vivace Chorus for performing at this wonderful concert. They have been a great part of Guildford's cultural life and will be for many years to come.

Finally, I do hope you enjoy tonight's concert and may I take this opportunity to wish you and your loved ones a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Howard Smith".

Cllr Howard Smith
Mayor of Guildford

THE MAYOR'S CHOSEN CHARITIES



**Phyllis[®]
Tuckwell**
Hospice Care
...because every
day is precious

Phyllis Tuckwell provides compassionate palliative and end of life care for patients and families across the whole of West Surrey and part of North-East Hampshire.

Living with an advanced or terminal illness can feel like a lonely place to be – but knowing we are here, offering expert care and support, can seem like a light in the darkness.

We care for over 250 patients, relatives, and carers every day - on our In-Patient Unit, through our Living Well sessions, and in patients' own homes and care homes.

Our Living Well team supports patients who need help coping with everyday life. Through our informative and creative programmes, we support them to manage their symptoms and continue living life as fully and independently as possible, for as long as they can. Our In-Patient Unit (IPU) offers 24-hour symptom management and end of life care, and loved ones can visit at any time of day or night. Patients who wish to be cared for, and to spend their last days, at home, are visited by our Hospice at Home team, who provide all the clinical, emotional, and practical support we offer.

Our care encompasses the whole family. We run support groups for patients' carers; offer practical help with matters such as claiming benefits and organising carer support; offer a listening ear to family members who need someone to talk to; and support children and young adults through loss and bereavement.

As the NHS/Government funding we receive only covers 25% of our costs, we have to raise over £25,000 every day to offer all our services, which we provide free of charge to our patients and their families. We therefore rely heavily on the support and generosity of our local community.

Whether patients are in their last days or need help coping with everyday life, we're here to support them... because every day is precious.

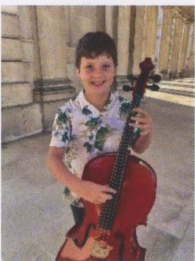


The Cheryl King Trust (CKT) was founded in memory of a local musician and teacher, Cheryl King, who was committed to providing opportunities for all children to learn about music regardless of their background. CKT funds music lessons for children and young people in Surrey whose families would not otherwise be able to afford them. Bursaries can be awarded for lessons across all musical genres: rock, pop and jazz as well as classical.

CKT works closely with Surrey Arts and other music charities that share its goals, such as Future Talent and Young Sounds UK, but families can also apply for bursaries directly via our website. As well as individual lessons we support music ensembles in schools where there is a high proportion of children on Pupil Premium, for example a highly successful Strings project in Sandfield primary school which provides inspirational group teaching delivered by staff from The Royal Grammar School.



Funds are largely raised from donations generated by musical groups such as Vivace, who 'Give a Gig' with raffles or bucket collections at their concerts and we are immensely grateful to those organizations for their support in offering opportunities to young musicians.



CKT is a registered charity, managed entirely by volunteers who believe passionately in the charity's ethos and with minimal overheads. In the 24/25 academic year we funded lessons for 99 children and our ambition is to double this number by 2027.

To donate, to apply for a bursary or for further information see our website <https://www.cherylkingtrust.org.uk>

THE MAYOR OF GUILDFORD'S CHRISTMAS CONCERT
with VIVACE CHORUS

Conductor: Barbara Höfling

Organist/pianist: Willow Northeald

Mendelssohn: From Christus - There shall a star

Welcome by Canon Simon Butler

Audience Carol (arr. Willcocks)

Solo

Bea Atkinson

Once in royal David's city

Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby
In a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

Choir

He came down to earth from heaven
Who is God and Lord of all,
And his shelter was a stable,
And his cradle was a stall;
With the poor, and mean, and lowly,
Lived on earth our Saviour holy.

All

And our eyes at last shall see him,
Through his own redeeming love,
For that child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in heaven above;
And he leads his children on
To the place where he is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable,
With the oxen standing by,
We shall see him; but in heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high;
When like stars his children crowned
All in white shall wait around.

Choir

Gabriel's Message (arr. Pettman)

God rest you merry, gentlemen (arr. Willcocks)

Welcome by Barbara Höfling – Favourite Carols

Audience Carol & Rotary favourite Carol: (arr. Willcocks)

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,

All seated on the ground,
The angel of the Lord came down,
And glory shone around.

"Fear not," said he, for mighty dread
Had seized their troubled mind;
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring
To you and all mankind."

"To you in David's town this day
Is born of David's line
A Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;
And this shall be the sign:

The heav'nly Babe you there shall find
To human view displayed,
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands
And in a manger laid."

Thus, spake the seraph; and forthwith
Appeared a shining throng
Of angels praising God, who thus
Addressed their joyful song:

"All glory be to God on high,
And to the earth be peace;
Goodwill henceforth from heav'n to men
Begin and never cease."

Choir

The First Nowell (arr. Willcocks)

Reading by Liz Curry-Hyde

"Minstrels" by William Wordsworth

Choir

Lo how a rose e'er blooming (arr. Sandström)
In Dulci Jubilo (arr. Pearsall)

Musical Director's favourite carol:

Gammel Julesang (Danish, P. E. Lange-Müller)

Audience Carol (arr. Willcocks)

O come, all ye faithful,

Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him
Born the King of angels:
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!

God of God,
Light of Light,
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God,
Begotten, not created:
O come, let us adore him

Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;
Glory to God
In the highest:
O come, let us adore him

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
Born that happy morning,
Jesu, to thee be glory giv'n;
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing:
O come, let us adore him

Choir

Vivace favourite carol:

O Holy Night (Adolphe Adam)

The twelve days of Christmas (English trad., arr. John Rutter)

INTERVAL

Drinks & Mince Pies available

Choir

Coventry Carol (arr. Willcocks)

Audience Carol (arr. Willcocks)

Away in a manger

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven, to live with Thee there.

Social Media favourite carol:

To be revealed tonight!

Audience Carol - Mayor's favourite carol:
In the bleak mid-winter: (Holst)

- Choir** In the bleak mid-winter
Frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
Snow on snow,
In the bleak mid-winter
Long ago.
- All** Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him
Nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away
When He comes to reign:
In the bleak mid-winter
A stable-place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty,
Jesus Christ.
- All** Enough for Him, whom cherubim
Worship night and day,
A breastful of milk
And a mangerful of hay;
Enough for Him, whom angels
Fall down before,
The ox and ass and camel
Which adore.
- Choir** Angels and archangels
May have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim
Thronged the air,
But only His mother
In her maiden bliss,
Worshipped the Beloved
With a kiss.
- All** What can I give Him,
Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd
I would bring a lamb,
If I were a wise man
I would do my part,
Yet what I can I give Him,
Give my heart.

Choir

Stille Nacht (German, arr. Gritton)

Reading by Mick de Pomerai

Luke chapter 2 verses 8-16

Choir

Winter Wonderland (arr. Tabbush)

Have yourself a merry little Christmas (arr. Shaw)

Address by the Mayor of Guildford Councillor Howard Smith

Introduced by The President of the Rotary Club of Guildford Wey

Mr Andrew Bowen-Ashwin

Audience Carol (Mendelssohn, arr. David Willcocks)

Hark! the herald-angels sing

Glory to the new-born King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled:
Joyful all ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies,
With th' angelic host proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem.
*Hark! The herald-angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.*

Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come
Offspring of a virgin's womb;
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail th' incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
*Hark! The herald-angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.*

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Ris'n with healing in his wings;
Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.
*Hark! The herald-angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.*

Encore

We wish you a merry Christmas
(arr. Warrell)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ROTARY IN GUILDFORD AND Vivace Chorus would like to thank the following people and organisations for their help in preparing for and staging this year's Mayor of Guildford's Christmas Concert:

Canon Simon Butler
The Parish of Holy Trinity and St. Mary's, Guildford
Guildford Borough Council
Barbara Höfling
Willow Northeald
Inner Wheel Club of Guildford

VIVACE CHORUS MEMBERS SINGING IN THIS CONCERT

First Sopranos: Sandra Adamson, Amelia Atkinson, Jan Barklem, Helen Beevers, Mary Broughton, Jo Haviland, Isabel Holdaway, Isobel Humphreys, Becky Kerby, Claudia Loiacono, Suzie Maine, Fran MacKay, Michelle Mumford, Sue Norton, Joan Thomas, Jane Thorp, Hilary Vaill, Barbara Tansey, Georgie von Schweinitz, Miriam White.

Second Sopranos: Jackie Alderton, Sarah Badger, Jane Barnes, Scarlett Close, Ann Fuller, Isabel Mealar, Alexandra Nash, Alison Palmer, Kate Peters, Helen Seeley, Mary Somerville, Samantha Wilkins, Christine Wilks, Eiri Williams, Lesley Worrall.

First Altos: Anna Arthur, Jackie Bearman, Jane Brooks, Philippa Curtis, Fiona Davidge, Lynne Hargreaves, Sheila Hodson, Kerry Manning, Charlotte Mathieson, Penny McLaren, Rosalind Milton, Lilly Nicholson, Jackie Payne, Eleanor Pinnegar, Catherine Shacklady, Heather Shepherd, Julia Stubbs, Valerie Thompson. Hilary Trigg, Susan Vega, Anna Williams, Maggie Woolcock.

Second Altos: Geraldine Allen, Evelyn Beastall, Liz Curry-Hyde, Sheena Ewen, Pauline Higgins, Penny Macfarlane, Lois McCabe, Pamela Murrell, Sonja Nagle, Joanna Stokes, Rosey Storey, Esther van Rooyen.

First Tenors: John Trigg, Susie Walker.

Second Tenors: Drew Alcott, Paul Arnold, Stephen Linton, Charles Martin, Tim Wray.

First Basses: Paul Barnes, Phil Beastall, Richard Broughton, Richard Dacey, Mick de Pomerai, Martin Harris, Brian John, Jeremy Johnson, Andrew Linden, Jon Long, Malcolm Munt, Chris Newbery, David Protheroe, Andrew Skinner, Phil Stanford, Rob Walker, Kieron Walsh.

Second Basses: Peter Andrews, Stuart Gooch, Mike Johns, Chris Peters.

ABOUT VIVACE CHORUS

Barbara Höfling
Francis Pott
Richard Dacey

Music Director
Accompanist
Chairman



Vivace Chorus at the Royal Albert Hall. July 2025

Photo: (©) Ash Mills

Vivace Chorus is a flourishing, ambitious and adventurous choir based in Guildford, Surrey. We enjoy singing traditional choral classics alongside the challenge of contemporary and newly-commissioned music – there's something for everyone at Vivace!

The choir began in 1946 as the Guildford Philharmonic Choir and was rebranded as Vivace Chorus in 2005. We have an enviable reputation for performing first-class concerts across a wide range of musical repertoire. Particular successes include a sell-out performance in May 2011 of Mahler's *Symphony No. 8*, the "Symphony of a Thousand", at the Royal Albert Hall, a highly acclaimed performance in November 2012 of Britten's *War Requiem* and another Royal Albert Hall success in May 2014 when we performed the *Verdi Requiem*. In 2017 we celebrated our 70th birthday with the *Philharmonia Orchestra* in the *Royal Festival Hall* and 2018 saw a sell-out performance at *G Live Guildford* for our "Concert for Peace".

In July 2025, we returned again to the *Royal Albert Hall*, where we were joined by other local choirs, the *Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra* and internationally renowned soloists *Nicky Spence* and *Lucy Crowe*, to perform *Ravel's Daphnis and Chloë Suite No. 2*, *Poulenc's Gloria*, and the spectacular *Te Deum* by *Hector Berlioz*.

That concert marked the end of an era, as it was our last with Jeremy Backhouse, who has now retired after 30 years of dedicated service to Vivace – his passion for choral music and sheer enthusiasm for music-making were evident at every rehearsal and performance.

We are delighted now to welcome Barbara Höfling as our new Music Director, and look forward to working with her over the years to come, to build on Jeremy's legacy, and take Vivace on to new heights. She is supported by Francis Pott, who is an academic and composer of international repute and an accomplished concert pianist – who better to accompany our rehearsals?

We have also enjoyed successful European and UK tours, including trips to France, Italy, Germany, Austria, the Baltic states and, most recently, northern Spain.

We are always happy to welcome new members, so if you would like to try us out, do come along to any of our regular rehearsals on Monday evenings at 7.15 in the Guildford Baptist Church, Millmead, Guildford.

Just contact our membership secretary Becky Kerby at **membership@vivacechorus.org** or pay a visit to our website, **vivacechorus.org**. You can also follow us on Facebook, Instagram (**[@Vivace_Chorus](#)**) and X (Twitter) - **[@VivaceChorus](#)**.

Vivace Chorus is a Registered Charity No. 1026337

Barabara Höfling



Barbara grew up in Hanover, Germany and studied violin, singing and choral conducting at the Hochschule für Musik und Theater.

She then split her career equally into solo singing work, including recording 3 solo CDs with Lied and Chamber Music, which won her a Supersonic Award for best Lied recording; and Choral singing, working for some of the best Choirs in the world, including RIAS Chamber Choir, BBC Singers, Berlin Radio Choir and the Monteverdi Choir with conductors such as Claudio Abbado, Bernhard Haitink, Yannick Nezet-Seguin, J.E. Gardiner and Simon Rattle.

Throughout her career she has directed choirs and orchestras in Germany and later in the UK. She is the founder and MD of the German Choir of London, which she took to perform at St. Peters Basilica in Rome, Notre Dame Paris, and Sagrada Famillia in Barcelona to name just a few.

In 2022 she was appointed Associate Chorus Director and Head of Vocal Development of the London Symphony Chorus. In this capacity she worked regularly with LSO conductors such as Simon Rattle, Lionel Sow and François Xavier Roth.

Barbara has worked with numerous choirs in the UK and abroad, including the London Philharmonic Choir, Chineke Voices, Coventry and Canterbury Cathedral Choirs, CBSO Chorus and Cologne Radio Choir.

She runs regular Workshops and Masterclasses on Choral Repertoire, Consort Singing and Vocal technique.

Barbara is a keen supporter of contemporary music and has to date commissioned more than 80 choral and solo works.

When it comes to Christmas, Barbara has tried to convince her British friends of the benefits of German traditions, such as Feuerzangenbowle or watching 'Dinner for One' on New Year's Eve. The former with great success, the latter less so.

Vivace Chorus future events - Come and Sing:

Come and sing: Join Vivace Chorus for a day of a cappella singing!

Saturday 24th Jan 2026 10.00am Guildford Baptist Church

Come and experience a day of singing with Vivace Chorus and Barbara Höfling, our new Music Director. Barbara is both a conductor and highly experienced vocal health specialist and will bring her unique perspective to a selection of secular and sacred motets, including Schumann's beautiful songs for double choir. You'll be part of creating a warm, blended sound that's perfect for the lush harmonies of Bruckner, the crunchy cluster chords of Eric Whitacre and the ethereal story-telling of Esenvalds.

As always, our popular Come and Sing days are held in our regular, rehearsal venue at Guildford Baptist Church in central Guildford, and music hire and our famous lunch is included in your ticket.

A Symphony of Voices

Saturday 21st March 2026 7:30pm Holy Trinity Church, Guildford

There's something about the sound of voices that's uplifting for the soul. Our spring concert is a programme of beautiful a cappella (unaccompanied) songs from a wide range of composers – from Schumann to Whitacre.

We'll be joined by internationally renowned organist, Stephen Farr. Stephen has held a number of cathedral appointments, including at Guildford Cathedral, where he was Organist and Master of the Choristers from 1999 to 2007. He has also held positions at Worcester College, Oxford and Corpus Christi College, Cambridge.

Gershwin Galore

Saturday 20th June 2026 7:30pm Holy Trinity Church

The songs and music of George Gershwin have a universal and enduring appeal. Alongside his brother, Ira, Gershwin created music for a new age, with endlessly toe-tapping tunes and lyrics that captured an age and have lasted more than a lifetime.

Join us for a delightful summer celebration of his work, with all your Gershwin favourites, including Summertime, The Man I Love, and I Got Rhythm. As Gershwin says: "Music has the power to make us feel alive, to remind us of the beauty in the world."

Tickets for all events can be obtained from vivacechorus.org



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So, who are Rotary?

Founded 120 years ago, Rotary is today the world largest humanitarian organisation with 1.4 million members globally.

Rotary's biggest claim to fame is probably our continuous drive to eradicate Polio, today only found in remote parts of Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Here are some of things Rotary in Guildford get up to:



Gardening:

We clear and tend to the gardens at Gosden House School. Green-fingered volunteers on select Saturdays from 10-12 are very welcome to join. Perfect location for our annual, charitable Gosdenberry Live Music Festival

For schools, we:

- Do **mock interviews** preparing Year 11s for work scenarios
- Help at schools' "Business Morning" Q&As
- Arrange Youth Speaks, a debating competition among schools
- Arrange the annual "**Schools Got Talent**" **concert at G live** in Guildford
- Arrange participation in Rotary Youth Leader Awards, a 5-day residential course

For good causes and with selected Charities, we:

- Arrange collections of e.g. Winter clothes for Ukraine; 100+ black bin bags were shipped in Dec. '22
- Help with arrangement, marshalling and marquee setup
- Help running the Guildford **Repair Workshop** at The Hive by King's College
- Run the Guildford **Mayor's Christmas Carol** concert
- Offer a fundraising platform to all charities and their supporters. Next **Mayor's Charity Walk** is on May 17th '26 , **all funds you raise go to your chosen charity**. Come and join for a 2, 6 or 10 mile walk in Shalford Park.
- **Tools with a Mission**, where "experienced" garden and other tools, sewing machines ++ are collected, refurbished and shipped overseas in a new lease of life



For Guildford companies, we:

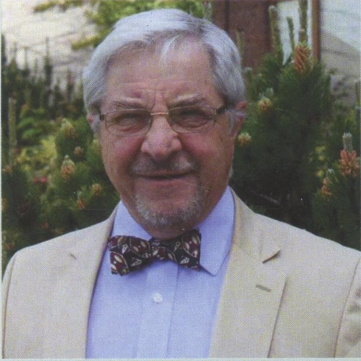
- Offer a platform for your Corporate Social Responsibility efforts to have an enhanced impact. Your employees can join for any of our activities.

**We are always seeking new worthy projects,
and we seek the volunteers to help us deliver them.
Please make contact!!!**

Email: rotaryinguildford@gmail.com
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Rotary
in Guildford





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