

COMMUNITY

Chamber choir returns



■ The Amity Singers

By Tom Ogg

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ONE of the Island's most popular chamber choirs will be returning to the stage next month.

The Amity Singers will be performing, at the Town Church in St Helier, a 'cornucopia of choral music' under the direction of conductor and long-time member Elizabeth Farnon, with choral classics ranging from Gregorian chant and folk songs to spiritual pieces and numbers from the big-band era.

'The concert will be titled Music for a Summer's Evening,' said Mrs Farnon. 'Among the pieces being performed will be a very upbeat arrangement of the spiritual Wade in the Water, an arrangement of A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square and a selection of folk songs such as Shenandoah and Londonderry Air.

'There will also be a performance of Verdi's "Laudi alla vergine" for four-part ladies' voices, while the men of the choir will be opening the concert with the Gregorian chant Salve Regina.'

The concert will also feature contributions from local musician Malcolm Whittell, who will be accompanying the choir for a handful of numbers on organ and piano.

'Malcolm will also be entertaining us with an instrumental organ piece,' said

Mrs Farnon. 'This is going to be a very special concert in more ways than one, as it will be our first after having not been able to perform for nearly a year and a half. We will also be saying goodbye to Malcolm, who will be leaving the Island very soon.'

In addition to the above, there will also be a selection of light refreshments for all attendees, while there will be a collection taken during the concert in support of both the church and choir.

• Music for a Spring Evening will be held at St Helier Town Church on Thursday 8 July at 8pm. For more on the Amity Singers, visit amitysingers.org.uk.

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Amity Singers conductor Elizabeth Farnon

Pianist to perform at the Jersey Arts Centre

LOCAL pianist James Horsfall will perform a programme of classical music at the Jersey Arts Centre next week, including a piece he composed himself.

Mr Horsfall, who has recently been made an honorary life member of the Jersey Arts Centre, began playing the piano at an early age. He gained a music scholarship to Magdalen College, Oxford, and went on to the Royal College of Music in London, where he studied piano exclusively.

Although he has spent much of his life as a teacher and accompanist in the Island, he has increasingly performed as a soloist. Mr Horsfall, who has been married for

nearly 48 years to Jane, also a musician, is now in his 70s and is keener than ever to further music in the community, and is very much looking forward to his forthcoming recital.

A major work by Debussy will form the centrepiece of his programme, which will also include music by Bach, Scarlatti, Schubert and Mendelssohn. He will also be performing a new composition that he has written specifically for the occasion.

The performance takes place on Wednesday 16 June at 7.30pm. For more information or to book tickets, visit artscentre.je or call 700444.



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