

Worcester Cathedral Chamber Choir Celebrates 20 Years Of Making Music

Worcester Cathedral Chamber Choir continues its year-long celebration of 20 years of music-making with a concert in the St Peter's area of the city this April. It will be one of the highlights of series of events to mark the double decade.

On April 6 the 35-strong choir will be performing the epic Brahms's German Requiem under the baton of choir founder Stephen Shellard, at St Martin's Church. The composer's arrangement includes accompaniment by two pianos, which will be played by Christopher Allsop and Robin Walker. Solo parts will be taken by Sheila Davies and Edward Seymour. A host of civic dignitaries and leading figures from the county arts and religious communities have been invited to attend.

The evening starts at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £12 (£6 for under 16s) and are available from 01386 860389 or on the door.

A gala celebration dinner and further concerts are planned for later this year.

In the past 20 years the adult choir of mixed voices has expanded from singing at traditional services to giving



successful concert performances, recording CDs, touring and even backing rock legend Rick Wakeman. It has recorded several successful albums, the latest being Royal Worcester – Music for Royal Occasions. It has been broadcast on the BBC and performed at special occasions including RHS Malvern Spring Show.

It was back in 1998 that then lay clerk Stephen Shellard told Worcester Cathedral Chapter about his dream to lead and conduct his own choir, including women's voices in the musical life of the cathedral for the first time in 900 years.

Stephen, now Senior Lay Clerk, said: "Back then I never envisioned that it would be here 20 years later and such a successful and established part of the cathedral and Worcester's musical life."