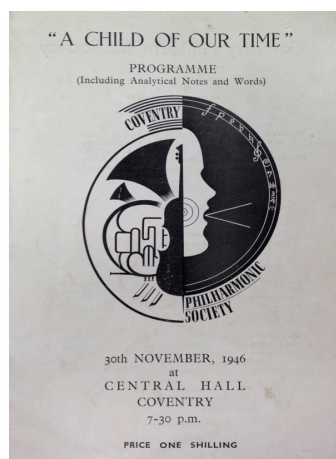
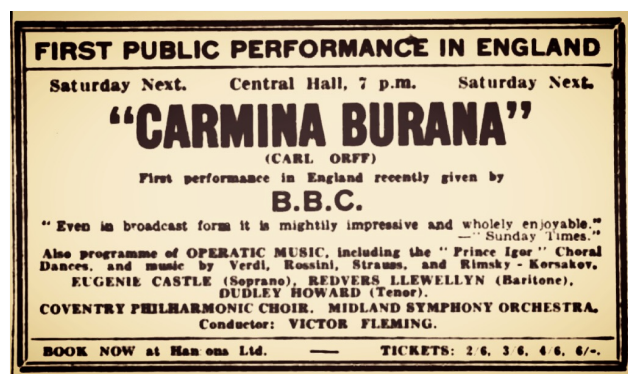


There were frequent performances of music by British composers, often linked to specific celebrations such as The Festival of Britain. Excerpts from opera and music by modern composers were sprinkled through the repertoire.



Some of the concerts were particularly notable. The performance of Tippett's Oratorio 'A Child of Our Time' on 30 November 1946, only two and a half years after its World Premiere in London on 19 March 1944, was not only conducted by the composer and featured Peter Pears and Owen Brannigan as two of the soloists, but was also the first provincial performance of the work. The critic of the Birmingham Daily Post praised the Choir *"for the devotion and conviction with which they interpreted the complex score"*.

Some five and a half years later, on 7 April 1951, the choir gave the first public performance of Orff's 'Carmina Burana' in England.



Critical reception was very positive - *"it was certainly their most accomplished and confident performance to date"*. Sadly it was also reported that this was a society *"indifferently supported by the public"*.



The Choir joined in national festivities like the Festival of Britain in 1951 (performing in the Coventry Hippodrome), the 60th Anniversary of VE Day in 2003 (performing in Coventry Cathedral) and a St George's Day Concert with the Daw Mill Colliery Band in 1998.

The Choir was also the mainstay of the 'Christmas Crackers' concerts which were an annual event at Warwick Arts Centre in the late 1980's through to the mid 1990's.

And it really pushed the boat out for its own anniversary celebrations.

**COVENTRY PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY**  
**SILVER JUBILEE CONCERT**  
 SATURDAY, 10th MAY, at THE CENTRAL HALL, COVENTRY,  
 7.30 p.m.

FIRST PERFORMANCE: "OUTCRY" — Commissioned by the Society from Peter Dickinson and Conducted by the Composer.  
 Programme also includes: TE DEUM (Haydn); SYMPHONY No. 29 (Mozart).  
 SOLOIST: MERIEL DICKINSON.

COVENTRY PHILHARMONIC CHOIR :: ORCHESTRA DA CAMERA  
 CONDUCTOR: BARRIE GRAYSON.


Book Now—FENNELLS, 78, Lower Freeton; or Lunn Poly, at Owen Owen Ltd. (Third Floor), Broadgate.  
 10/6, 7/6, 5/-, 3/6. Students: 2/6. O.A.P.: 1/6.

On 10 May 1969, the Choir performed a work specially commissioned for the Society's Silver Jubilee Season. 'Outcry', a cantata composed by Peter Dickinson was described by the composer as "not only the sound of the hunted animal or the protest of the onlooker but also the horrified

recognition of man as an outlaw and an outsider".

The piece was conducted by the composer and the soloist was his own sister, Meriel Dickinson.

A complete season of concerts celebrated the Golden Jubilee ...

**COVENTRY Philharmonic Choir** 


**LAST NIGHT OF THE PROMS**

- ★ International Selection
- ★ Traditional "Last Night" music

Featuring "Tubby the Tuba"  
 COLIN SNEADE - Tuba  
 KEITH RAILTON - Narrator

Beauchamp Sinfonietta  
 Leader: Rita Dawkins

Conductor  
 JOHN DOWDING



Seats: £6 & £4.50 (£3.50 Concession)

SATURDAY 9th OCTOBER 7.30pm  
 CENTRAL HALL COVENTRY

Tickets available from "Wesley's" at Central Hall & from Brian Sunderland Music, 62 Earlston St., Coventry CV4 2TJ


**COVENTRY Philharmonic Choir** 

*Handel's*  
**MESSIAH**

Harriet Goodwin (Soprano) Robin Tyson (Alto)  
 Martin Hindmarsh (Tenor) Glenville Hargreaves (Bass)

Cotswold Sinfonietta  
 Conductor John Dowding  
 Leader Kenneth Moore

**Concert Programme**

**COVENTRY Philharmonic Choir** 

**BUMPER CHRISTMAS CRACKERS**  
 SATURDAY 4th DECEMBER 1993


COVENTRY CENTRE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS BRASS BAND  
 CONDUCTOR PHIL COOPER

CHOIRS FROM ST THOMAS MORE R.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL  
 HOWES PRIMARY SCHOOL & MANOR PARK JUNIOR SCHOOL  
 CONDUCTOR JOHN DOWDING

**CONCERT PROGRAMME**  
as seen in Coventry Evening Telegraph

**Coventry Evening Telegraph**


Then on 3 April 2004, as part of its Diamond Jubilee celebrations, the Choir gave the first regional performance of Karl Jenkins 'The Armed Man: A Mass For Peace', something of a scoop for its new musical director, Steven Russell who conducted the full orchestral version. Sadly the advertised soloist, Mary Plazas was indisposed and her place was taken by Yvonne Howard. The work has become a modern choral favourite and has appeared in the Choir's repertoire on a couple of occasions, most recently in November 2015.

60th Season 1944-2004  
 The  
**Coventry Philharmonic Choir**  
 Musical Director - Steven Russell  
 Presents 

JENKINS  
**"THE ARMED MAN"**  
 A MASS FOR PEACE

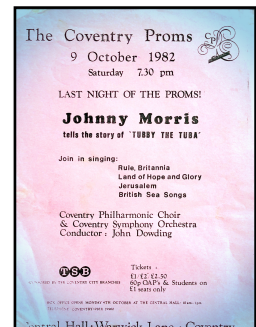
Rutter  
**"MAGNIFICAT"**

Soprano  
**MARY PLAZAS**

 APRIL 3rd 2004 / 7.30pm  
**Methodist Central Hall**  
**Warwick Road, Coventry**  
 Tickets £5 / from Choir Members  
 or on the door  
 TEL: 024 7641 4776

In its 70th year the Choir joined with the Collegium Choir in St Mary's, Warwick, in a special programme including Mozart's 'Requiem' recreating the style of performance of the 1940's.

A quintessentially British musical event is the annual Last Night of the Proms concert and, in the 1980s and 1990s, the Choir presented its own "Last Night" on 5 occasions. For the first concert in 1982, the well-known children's TV presenter, environmentalist and naturalist, Johnny Morris, narrated "Tubby the Tuba". On a separate occasion, the raconteur performed his own operetta "Lollopalong the Racehorse".



In 1989 the Choir presented its "Last Night of the Proms" under the watchful eye of Sir Henry Wood himself. An enterprising choir member contacted the Royal Academy of Music and asked if he could borrow the bust for the Choir's own tribute to the great man. Much to everyone's surprise, the bust was duly loaned for the concert.

Apart from these "premier" performances, the Society was fortunate enough to attract talented soloists and orchestras as these programmes show, including Janet Baker, Joan Sutherland, Heather Harper, Owen Brannigan, Norman Lumsden, John Carol Case, James Bowman and the great Polish bass Marian Nowakowski, all of whom became internationally recognised.

COVENTRY PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY  
The National Federation of Music Societies to which this Society is affiliated, supports this Concert with funds provided by the Arts Council of Great Britain.

SATURDAY, 24th MARCH, 1956, at 7.0 p.m. · CENTRAL HALL

**REQUIEM MASS . . . . . VERDI**

SOLOISTS:  
JOAN SUTHERLAND (SOPRANO)  
(By permission of the Coventry Administration of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden)  
KATHLEEN JOYCE (MEZZO-SOPRANO)  
ALFRED HALLETT (TENOR)  
NOWAKOWSKI (BASS)

COVENTRY PHILHARMONIC CHOIR  
MIDLAND SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA  
Leader: EDGAR WHEATLEY  
Conductor: VICTOR FLEMING

Programme with Words . . . . . Sixpence

COVENTRY PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY  
The National Federation of Music Societies to which this Society is affiliated, supports this Concert with funds provided by the Arts Council of Great Britain.

BELGRADE THEATRE  
Sunday, 30th March, 1958  
at 3 p.m.

**THE MESSIAH**  
(HANDEL)

HEATHER HARPER PAMELA BOWDEN  
(Soprano) (Contralto)  
ANDREW GOLD NORMAN LUMSDEN  
(Tenor) (Bass)

COVENTRY PHILHARMONIC CHOIR  
THE RIDDICK ORCHESTRA  
Leader: VERA KANTROVITCH Solo Trumpet: BERNARD BROWN  
Conductor: DOREEN RIDLEY

CONDUCTOR: VICTOR FLEMING

Programme . . . . . Price Sixpence

COVENTRY PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY  
The National Federation of Music Societies to which this Society is affiliated, supports this Concert with funds provided by the Arts Council of Great Britain.

CENTRAL HALL · COVENTRY  
Saturday, 15th February, 1958  
at 7.0 p.m.

**THE PASSION OF OUR LORD**  
ACCORDING TO ST. MATTHEW  
(BACH)

ILSE WOLF JANET BAKER  
(Soprano) (Contralto)  
WILFRED BROWN JOHN CAROL CASE  
(Tenor) (Bass)

RIDDICK ORCHESTRA  
Leader: REGINALD MORLEY  
COVENTRY PHILHARMONIC CHOIR  
Organ: G. F. B. PEARSON Conductor: DOREEN F. RIDLEY  
Soloists: Chorus from STONE PARK GIRLS' SCHOOL, GALLISON CASTLE BOYS' SCHOOL, WHITLEY ABBEY MIXED SCHOOL

CONDUCTOR: VICTOR FLEMING

Programme & Words . . . . . Price One Shilling



On 26 January 1980, the Choir performed Honegger's 'King David', an oratorio performed without staging. The narration was provided by Richard Baker, a well-known BBC newsreader and classical music commentator.



One of the most performed choral masterpieces is, of course, Handel's 'Messiah', which the Choir has presented on at least 24 occasions in venues as varied as the old Coventry Hippodrome, the Belgrade Theatre, Fillongley Parish Church, Bedworth Civic Hall, Methodist Central Hall and the Collegiate Church of St Mary in Warwick. Other favourites have been Mendelssohn's 'Elijah' (7 performances), Bach's 'St Matthew Passion' (5 outings) and Verdi's 'Requiem' performed on at least 8 occasions, followed by Haydn's 'Creation' and Mozart's 'Requiem', both performed at least 4 times.

## Foreign affairs

The Choir also travelled. In 1996 they made a trip to Caen in France where they gave a concert of English Music to the French audience. The tour was particularly memorable for two reasons. Firstly, a route miscalculation led to an abortive attempt to drive a 3m high coach under a 2.6m high bridge. And secondly, a number of choir members were mistaken for a funeral party as, dressed in the usual all black concert garb, they carried keyboards from the concert venue to waiting cars. Onlookers bowed their heads and kept a respectful silence as the "coffins" filed past. Two years later there was a return visit by the French choir. And six months after that, the Coventry Philharmonic hosted an Italian Choir.

