

The Choir's next major public performance will be our
CHRISTMAS CONCERT
which will be held in
Tillicoultry Parish Church Hall
17 Dollar Road, Tillicoultry
on Saturday, 7th December, 2024 (TBC).
We hope to see you there.

Clackmannanshire Choral Society
rehearses on Monday evenings at 7 p.m.
in Tillicoultry Church Hall, 17 Dollar Road, Tillicoultry.
New members are welcome to join us.
Just come along to a rehearsal.
<https://clackschoral.godaddysites.com/>
<https://www.facebook.com/ClacksChoral/>

Sopranos

Joyce Bell
Norma Ramage
Elizabeth Philliben
Angela Leask
Isabel Watt
Cath Chadwick
Pamela Thomson
Kate Paterson
Morven Larkin
Isabelle Reekie
Jan Harvie
Nicole Kremar

The Choristers

Altos

Sue Egerton
Carole Thomson
Elsie Pollock-Smith
Pauline Page
Gillian McAuslane
Sylvia Gorski
Carol Lawson

Tenors

Joy Hendry
Brian Howie
Patrick Cairns
Ken Thomson

Basses

Ewart McAuslane
Donal Hurley
Henry Edwards
David Dobbie
Ian McLachlan

☆☆☆☆☆☆

Spring Concert



with Ailsa Aitkenhead (*guest soloist, piano*)

PROGRAMME



*Programme and
interval
refreshments
included in
ticket price*

Saturday, 20th April 2024
Tillicoultry Parish Church Hall,
17 Dollar Road, Tillicoultry.
7:30 p.m.

Welcome

Well, the cherry blossom is out and swirling with the hailstones and the sleet in the howling gales of April 'showers', so it must be time for our Spring Concert 2024. A very warm welcome to you and thank you for joining us tonight.

Our Music Director, Kit Mitchell, has put together an eclectic programme of diverse 'goodies', sacred and profane, classical and modern. It has been fun (and hard work) rehearsing these - we know we shall enjoy performing them for you and hope you will enjoy hearing them.

The same eclecticism has informed the selection of pieces performed by choir soloists tonight in the second half of our concert – expect heartache, stoicism and wistful humour in equal measure.

We have a very special treat for you tonight, in the form of our guest soloist, pianist Ailsa Aitkenhead. The delights of classical, romantic, and impressionistic music will bathe your ears in the first half. A change of gear after the interval will take you on a whistle-stop tour of ragtime, classical jazz and retrospective rock. I cannae wait.

Thinking of joining us? We welcome new members and there is no scary audition! We recommence rehearsing for our Christmas Concert 2024 in Tillicoultry Parish Church Hall at 7 pm on Monday September 2nd, 2024. We would be delighted to see you!

We hope you enjoy your evening with us and we wish you all the joys of spring and, hopefully, a bright and serene summer.

Donal Hurley
ClacksChoral President

Our Guest Soloist

Ailsa Aitkenhead is a professional pianist, accompanist and piano teacher. She studied piano accompaniment at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. She graduated with distinction, achieved the Alex Menzies award for an outstanding accompanist and was highly commended in the governor's recital prize. Since then, she has worked as a staff accompanist at Edinburgh University and is now the staff accompanist for St Andrews University. She is a regular performer with Fever Candlelight Concert Series; Principal Pianist at St Marks Unitarian church, Official Accompanist for the Edinburgh Music Competition Festival, and the Head Accompanist for Three Bridges Opera company.

Ailsa is a frequent performer across Scotland: she has performed concerts at St Giles' Cathedral, St Mary's Cathedral; *Oran Mór*, Greyfriars Kirk, St Stephen's Church, Balerno Music Festival, Edinburgh Fringe Festival and many more. She also performs collaboratively in a wide range of duos and larger combinations.



Our Accompanist

Meg Carroll ALCM was born in Dumbarton and raised in Helensburgh. She started piano lessons at the age of 5, progressing to playing harmonium for Sunday School and piano for Brownies, Guides and ballet classes by the age of 12.

Leaving school after O-levels, Meg enrolled in a secretarial college in Glasgow, which led to a career in administration, including at Alva Academy, Stirling University, NCH and Grounds for Learning.

She continued to study music privately and joined Girlguiding in Alva and the Scottish Singing Circle. Thus she had the opportunity to try the clarsach and was hooked. She joined Edinburgh-based *Na Clarsairean* and has since played in many venues, including Holyrood Palace, the Scottish Parliament, Scone Palace and Iona Abbey. Performing with a friend in the National Mod, they won the adult duet competition two years in a row.

She learned violin at school and unearthed the instrument after many years' neglect and now plays with Stirling Strathspey and Reel Society. Flute playing also took her fancy and she often plays with friends in small groups.

Meg is also an active member of Stirling and District Society of Organists and the Organist at Menstrie Parish Church.

Formerly and occasionally our relief accompanist, Meg joined us permanently in September 2022 and is now an integral and essential contributor to our music-making going forward.

Our Conductor

Kit Mitchell learned to sing at his mother's knee and was dispatched at the age of eight to be a Chorister in Durham Cathedral choir, where he experienced an intensive grounding in musicianship and the church music tradition and learned the craft of choral singing.

He sang in St Ann's Church Choir, Manchester as a student, and with Manchester University Gilbert & Sullivan Society; later with Wokingham Choral Society under Stephen Layton, and later still with Dunblane Cathedral Choir and Stirling University Choir.

In 2015, under the expert guidance of his teacher, Catriona Lang BMus (Hons) PGDIP, Kit achieved a Distinction at Grade 8 in the practical Singing exam of the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music.

A member of the Association of British Choral Directors, Kit was Assistant Conductor of Stirling University Choir from 2016 to 2022, leading sectionals, warm-ups, and deputising as accompanist and as conductor as required, including conducting performances of Haydn's Little Organ Mass and Faure's Requiem.

Kit was appointed Music Director of ClacksChoral in January of last year 2023, when he said:

"I am honoured to have been invited to become Musical Director of Clackmannanshire Choral Society from January 2023, and to join the fine tradition which the Society and my illustrious predecessors have established over many years.

"Choral singing is my passion.

"I believe that everyone can contribute to, learn from and be uplifted by the art of singing in a choir, and discover for themselves that harmony singing is greater than the sum of its parts!

"Please come and join us! You will receive a warm welcome and have a fun and rewarding experience."

PROGRAMME

1. CHOIR, ACCOMPANIED

- (a) **Heaven Bound** *arr. Stephanie Taylor & Patti Drennan*
alto solo: Gillian McAuslane
- (b) **Non Nobis, Domine** *Roger Quilter*
- (c) **Jesu, joy of man's desiring** *Johann Sebastian Bach*
- (d) **Ave Verum Corpus** *Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart*

2. GUEST SOLOIST:

Ailsa Aitkenhead (*piano*)

- (a) **Piano Sonata No. 12 in F Major, K 332** (First Movement)
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
- (b) **Nocturne in E Flat Major, Op.9 No.2** *Frédéric Chopin*
- (c) **Arabesque No.1 in E Major** *Claude Debussy*

3. CHOIR, ACCOMPANIED

- (a) **Cantique de Jean Racine** *Gabriel Fauré*
- (b) **Craigieburn Wood** *Carolyn Sparey*
- (c) **The Lord is My Shepherd**
theme from 'The Vicar of Dibley' *Howard Goodall*

INTERVAL

(20 minutes; refreshments will be served)

4. CHOIR, ACCOMPANIED

- (a) **Bohemian Rhapsody** *Freddie Mercury*
- (b) **A Clare Benediction** *John Rutter*

5. CHOIR SOLOISTS, ACCOMPANIED

- (a) **Les berceaux, Op.23 No.1** *Gabriel Fauré*
Morven Larkin (soprano); Kit Mitchell (piano)
- (b) **Goin' Home** *Largo from Symphony No. 9* *Antonín Dvořák*
Ewart McAuslane (bass); Meg Carroll (piano)

6. CHOIR, ACCOMPANIED

- Calon Lân (Pure Heart)** (Sung in English)
John Hughes, arr. Meuryn Hughes

7. CHOIR SOLOISTS, ACCOMPANIED

- (a) **The Sloth** *Donald Swann*
Donal Hurley (baritone); Kit Mitchell (piano)
- (b) **I Want to Sing in Opera** *George Arthurs*
Cath Chadwick (soprano); Kit Mitchell (piano)

8. GUEST SOLOIST:

Ailsa Aitkenhead (*piano*)

- (a) **Bethena, a Concert Waltz** *Scott Joplin*
- (b) **The Man I Love** *from 'Lady Be Good'* *George Gershwin*
- (c) **Crocodile Rock** *Elton John*

9. CHOIR, ACCOMPANIED

- The Music of MGM** *arr. Greg Gilpin*

**Thank you for joining us this evening.
We wish you a safe journey home.**