

During 2022 Cumbria Rural Choirs, which was originally formed in 1950, was relaunched as Cumbria Singers. Information about Cumbria Rural Choirs, including a list of the concerts that were performed between 1950-2022, can be found at www.cumbria-rural-choirs.org

Cumbria Singers draws its membership from across Cumbria and beyond. With over 100 singers, it is the largest amateur choir in north Cumbria.

In 2025 it successfully performed the 'Five Mystical Songs' by Vaughan Williams; Bob Chilcott's 'Requiem' and 'Gloria' by John Rutter.

In the words of the independent reviewer:

'The evening began with the Requiem of Bob Chilcott. It is unique in its text with the addition of a prayer in English and with some of the more vengeful and wrathful texts omitted. So, the largely reflective and meditative mood was very well captured by soloists and choir alike. More dramatic moments were there but were always well controlled and never overdone. Intonation in the choral singing was exemplary, and the instrumental backing was highly sensitive.

Soprano, Charlotte O'Hare and tenor, Thomas Elwin were soloists par excellence with the final solo soprano phrase rising beautifully heavenward. It sent shivers down my spine.

The second half began with the five Mystical Songs of Vaughan Williams. Here we have truly wonderful Music and inspirational, spiritual words. Baritone soloist, Malachy Frame sang with a warm, rich tone and perfect technical control. In the main, the choir is performing a supporting role but they really came into their own in the Antiphon at the end which was sung with great relish and exuberance. Accompaniment here was expertly provided by organist, Edward Taylor.

The concert concluded with the Gloria by John Rutter. Here we had a different set of instrumentalists, this time a large brass ensemble and percussion, with some delicate organ passages. The playing here was simply superb and lifted the evening and the choir to new heights as they sang with renewed zest as well as real poise and assurance. Our soprano soloist had a wonderful short solo near the end which was sung atmospherically and out of sight. It was a magical ending to this memorable concert all conducted effectively and engagingly by the inspirational Matthew Owens.'

Cumbria Singers are looking forward to their next concert in
Carlisle Cathedral on 25th April, 2026

Performing:

Haydn's : 'insanae et vanae curae' and 'Te deum'. Mozart's : 'Mass in C minor'
The Conductor will be Matthew Owens who is also Cumbria Singers' Music Director for 2025-2026 Season. The choir will be accompanied by professional musicians and soloists.

Rehearsals begin in September 2025.

They will be held at Ullswater Community College, Penrith.

The rehearsal accompanist will be David. T. Shingler.

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For further information about this concert and other events in 2026, visit

www.cumbriasingers.org.uk



CUMBRIA SINGERS

making music together

Charity number: 1168081

www.cumbriasingers.org.uk

Becoming a Friend of Cumbria Singers

Cumbria Singers provides opportunities for people of all ages and experience to come together to perform large scale choral works under the leadership of an internationally renowned conductor, accompanied by a professional orchestra, in a high profile concert venue.

Singers will develop their vocal skills and self confidence. The quality of their singing will improve and this will enhance their performance in any other choir to which they already belong or may join in the future.

Its members have the opportunity to perform in the **BIG SING** of at least one major choral work each season in its annual concert. Social events are also arranged to enable those associated with Cumbria Singers to enjoy making and listening to music together in different ways.

Cumbria Singers needs support to achieve these aims

We are inviting you to become a 'Friend of Cumbria Singers'



Why should I become a Friend of Cumbria Singers?

FRIENDS OF CUMBRIA SINGERS HAVE:

Priority booking for the Cumbria Singers annual concert.

An invitation to join other special guests for complimentary refreshments during the interval.

Advance notice of other events and other updates.

The satisfaction of knowing that they are supporting the continuation of choral music of the highest quality across Cumbria.

How can I become a Friend of Cumbria Singers?

Friends of Cumbria Singers are invited to make a donation of £20 or above.

For every £68 donated as a Friend of Cumbria Singers, you will be entitled to one free ticket for the annual concert.

Gift aiding your donation will increase its value by 25%.

Donations can be made online or by post.

Sponsorship of the concert and other events is always welcome. Please let us know if this is of interest to you.

Application to become a Friend of Cumbria Singers

I wish to donate £ to Cumbria Singers

Please tick whichever statement is applicable

I am a UK taxpayer and wish to use gift aid.

A cheque is enclosed for £..... It is payable to Cumbria Rural Choirs, the registered account for Cumbria Singers.

My payment will be made by BACS to: Cumbria Rural Choirs CAF Bank
Sort Code: **40-52-40** Account: **00013018** Please ref: **Name + FCS**

Signed: **Date:**

Name: (Please print)

Address:

Postcode: **Tel:**

Email:

We will use your contact details solely for administration purposes and will never share them with a third party.

**Please post the form above, with your cheque, to: Clive Riches
Treasurer, 16 Byrnes Close, Plumpton, Penrith, CA11 9PE**

Or if you are making a BACS payment either post the form to the above, or scan and attach it to an email to: **cnriches@gmail.com**

THANK YOU