



Lark Ascending

A History of Leicestershire Chorale

This is the story of the leadership of four outstanding music directors – Peter Fletcher, Paul McCreesh, Jonathan Tilbrook and Tom Williams – three have written personal comments. Four different personalities with something in common, they have all made substantial contributions to establishing ‘one of the finest chamber choirs in the English Midlands’ (Choir & Organ). Other people who have been thoroughly involved with Chorale’s development – Cameron Fraser, Bob Brown, Suzanne Challacombe, Mary Moore, Tony Gelsthorpe and Gill Bracey – are among those who have added to the story. Material from archivists like Gillian Bindley and Wanda Davies, from newspaper critics like Neil Crutchley, and from the numerous concert programmes, make this a rich history, telling of the many outstanding concerts, some involving seriously demanding challenges, and how Chorale has dealt with the problems facing chamber choirs since 1977. In the Preface, Paul McCreesh comments: *What a pleasure it was to read this history of the Leicestershire Chorale, carefully compiled by Vivian Anthony.*

This is my last year as President of Leicestershire Chorale and my parting present to Chorale will be this thoroughly-researched and lively history. Chorale’s origins are in the glorious years when Leicestershire’s School of Music and its Schools Symphony Orchestra were second to none in the country and of international renown. Director of Education Andrew Fairbairn and Music Adviser Peter Fletcher wanted a creation on the choral side to balance the outstanding orchestral work. From the outset Chorale was closely linked with education and with passing on the glories of singing to the younger generation.

This book of 66 pages will have numerous pictures and the sale price is £10 + postage. All proceeds will be donated by me to Chorale so any further contribution would be welcomed. My goal is to add a £1,000 to the funds which make possible Chorale’s youth and concert activities. I will be dealing with sales directly so **please return the attached form to me either by post or by email vsa505@gmail.com – please pay £10 + £1 p&p by BACS to my account or send a cheque** - Enquiries to: Tel: 01572 821674. With thanks in advance for your support.

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*I will pay by BACS to Lloyds Bank 30-84-51 Acct. No: 45133060 (Please use your surname as the reference)

*I will send a cheque to V S Anthony at 24 Ayston Road, Uppingham, Oakham, Rutland LE15 9RL