

GOLDSMITHS CHORAL UNION

Music Director: Brian Wright



Photograph By C L Bull

Charity Registration Number 1044507



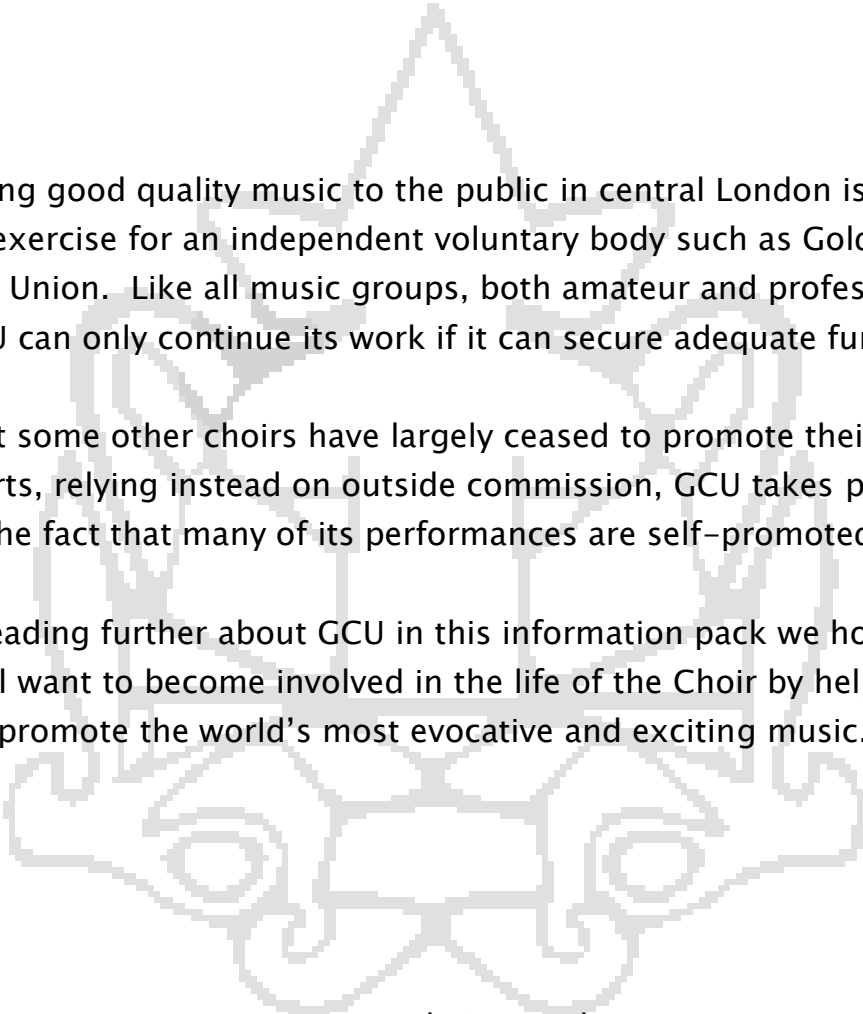
**Who Are Goldsmiths? What Do We Do?
How can you join in?**

Goldsmiths Choral Union is one of London's premier choirs, praised for its freshness, clarity and emotional commitment

"The poetry came over well in the hall's clear, dry acoustic. The chorus of cackling demons was spiky and alive..... The choir crescendoed towards ecstasy at the end of the contrapuntal 'Praise to the Holiest' - they seemed convinced of life beyond "the busy beat of time" ... Conductor Brian Wright drove the orchestra like a charioteer and made the improbable dream vivid."

Rick Jones - London Evening Standard

Reviewing *Dream of Gerontius* - Royal Festival Hall, March 2001
Goldsmiths Choral Union with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra



Bringing good quality music to the public in central London is not a cheap exercise for an independent voluntary body such as Goldsmiths Choral Union. Like all music groups, both amateur and professional, GCU can only continue its work if it can secure adequate funds.

Whilst some other choirs have largely ceased to promote their own concerts, relying instead on outside commission, GCU takes pride in the fact that many of its performances are self-promoted.

After reading further about GCU in this information pack we hope that you will want to become involved in the life of the Choir by helping us promote the world's most evocative and exciting music.

www.gcuchoir.org.uk

GOLDSMITHS: Playing Your Part

We hope that after reading about Goldsmiths Choral Union you will feel that you would like to play a supporting role in our future.

Not only is the choir very well established with a musical pedigree to be extremely proud of, but it boasts a history of courting only the very best in musical talent in the quality of musicians and the soloists it has been associated with since its establishment in 1932.

The audience for GCU concerts ranges from Royalty at some of our more prestigious concerts, to the man (and child!) on the street at our traditional Christmas celebrations. The majority of our audiences today however are professional business men and women and seasoned concert goers.

GCU is looking for whatever support you can give us. This could be by sponsoring a complete season, by sponsoring a concert or a singer, or by simply taking out advertising space in one of our programmes. It could also be by donation.

To give you a rough guide as to how much it costs GCU to put on a concert, for a church venue concert we would need between £4000–£5000 and for a top concert venue, with a major orchestra and soloists we would need between £25,000 and £50,000.

Depending on the amount you can donate to the choir a sponsorship package can be tailored especially for you. We have outlined below the sort of packages that can be put together as a guide.

Advertising Space

GCU offers the opportunity to take out advertising space in our concert programme (usually A4 size) as follows.

♫ Quarter Page	£90.00
♫ Half Page	£140.00
♫ Whole Page	£190.00

Small Donations

For donations between £100 and £500 GCU can offer the following:

♪ **£100.00**

An acknowledgement in the concert programme
+ 1 Free Concert Ticket

♪ **£200.00**

A Quarter Page advert in the concert programme
+ 2 Free Concert Tickets

♪ **£500.00**

A Half Page advert in the concert programme
+ 4 Free Concert Tickets

Larger Donations

For donations of £1000 and more GCU can offer the following:

♪ **£1000–£1500**

A Whole Page advert in the concert programme
8 Top Price Concert Tickets / Box Equivalent
The opportunity to buy 4 additional tickets at a discounted rate
Complimentary Concert Programmes
Acknowledgement and link from GCU website to your company website

♪ **£2000–£2500**

A Whole Page advert in the concert programme
12 Top Price Concert Tickets / Box Equivalent
The opportunity to buy 8 additional tickets at a discounted rate
Acknowledgement on Concert Flyers and Posters
Complimentary Concert Programmes
Post concert meet the Conductor, Soloists and refreshments

♪ **£5000+**

For donations of £5000 GCU would be able to offer all of the above and would welcome the opportunity of discussing further options with you. For example you might like to discuss the possibility of arranging a pre-concert reception for you and your clients either at the concert venue or a nearby establishment.

You could even consider sponsoring the choir for a whole season – which would amount to anything between £30,000 and £60,000 depending on the type of concerts and the venues. Once again a special package could be worked out especially tailored for your requirements.

One other option you might like to consider is commissioning and sponsoring the choir for a performance of music of your choice to celebrate a special occasion or anniversary, or as a promotional exercise. Any ideas you have could be discussed with the Chairman and Music Director to assess the feasibility of the request.

If you would like to talk about taking forward your sponsorship ideas, please contact Goldsmiths Chairman or Secretary who will be pleased to discuss them with you.

Chairman: David Hayes
Musk Cottage
Church Lane
Henfield
West Sussex BN5 9NY

e-mail: david1@Hayes222.freerve.co.uk

Secretary: Sue Peacock
125 Malvern Way,
Croxley Green
Hants
WD3 3QH

e-mail: speacock@semta.org.uk

Thank you.

GOLDSMITHS: Objectives and Aspirations

Goldsmiths Choral Union is well established as one of Britain's leading amateur choirs. The choir is based in London and promotes concerts at the capital's principal music venues including the Royal Festival Hall, the Royal Albert Hall, the Barbican Centre and the Queen Elizabeth Hall. The choir also promotes concerts at a number of churches around the capital.

GCU commits itself to fulfilling three major objectives:

- ♪ To promote and enjoy the production of high-quality performances of adventurous as well as traditional musical works in London's major concert venues.
- ♪ To educate and broaden the musical experience of its members and audience through its performances and programmes and also through its music workshops and open rehearsals.
- ♪ To continue its longstanding tradition of support for youth in the field of music by bringing forward exciting young soloists at its concerts. Thereby maintaining a fruitful collaboration with training and other organisations that work with young people in the world of music, actively seeking to recruit young singers to its membership, notably through its special arrangements for students.

GOLDSMITHS: A History

Goldsmiths Choral Union came into existence in 1932 as an evening class at Goldsmith's College in south-east London, under the direction of the late Frederick Haggis, when he was Lecturer in Music at the College. At the outbreak of World War II, when the college was evacuated to Nottingham, the choir remained in London and continued to give concerts in the capital, first at the Queen's Hall and later at the Royal Albert Hall. After the war, GCU was one of the first choirs to give concerts at the Royal Festival Hall.

In 1973 Frederick Haggis retired and the choir welcomed the arrival of our present Music Director, Brian Wright. With the arrival of Brian Wright came a new and exciting period of growth for the choir. GCU expanded both in numbers and in reputation, becoming known for the liveliness and musicality of its performances.

1982 saw the choir celebrate its 50th anniversary by returning to the Great Hall of Goldsmiths' College for a performance of music by Sir William Walton and Ralph Vaughan Williams with the orchestra of the National Centre for Orchestral Studies (NCOS). This marked the beginning of an extremely rewarding relationship between GCU and the NCOS that lasted until the Centre was disbanded in 1989. The high point of this association was a performance in 1988 of Sir Michael Tippett's oratorio *The Mask of Time* at the Royal Festival Hall. The choir and orchestra were joined by members of the BBC Symphony Chorus, the chamber choir Pegasus, and a team of outstanding soloists including Faye Robinson, Mary King, Kim Begley and David Wilson-Johnson. To mark its 60th anniversary, the choir put on a performance of William Walton's *Belshazzar's Feast* in the Royal Festival Hall with Michael George and the Guildford Philharmonic Orchestra in July 1993.

It is hard to believe that the concert season 2002/2003 saw the choir reach its 70th anniversary, only ever having had two Music Directors. A programme of music befitting such a celebration commenced in November 2002 at the Royal Albert Hall with performances with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra of Ralph Vaughan Williams' *A Sea Symphony* and William Walton's *Belshazzar's Feast*. The choir's annual Christmas Celebration took place in December at the Queen Elizabeth Hall closely followed by a spectacular performance of Handel's *Messiah* in the Royal Albert Hall. April 2003 saw a truly exhilarating and moving performance of Mozart's *Requiem* and *Davidde Penitente* at the Barbican Hall with the Hertfordshire Classical Orchestra. To round the

season off the choir selected one of its smaller London venues, St John's Waterloo to produce an equally moving performance of the London Version of Brahms's *German Requiem* in the scoring for two pianos.

Over the years, GCU has been privileged to work with many outstanding musical artists. Conductors with whom the choir has performed throughout its history include Walter Goehr, Sir Malcolm Sargent, Sir Charles Groves, Gennady Rozhdestvensky, Sir Charles Mackerras and Lord Menuhin. GCU has also collaborated with other choirs in joint ventures. Notable in this respect are its several appearances at the Henry Wood Promenade Concerts where it has taken part with the BBC Symphony Orchestra, Chorus and Singers in Schoenberg's *Gurrelieder*, conducted by Pierre Boulez, and Berlioz's *Grande Messe de Morts*, conducted by Brian Wright.

Many of the outstanding soloists from the past 60 years gave some of their earliest performances in concerts promoted by GCU. They range from Sir Peter Pears, who first sang with the choir in 1939, and Kathleen Ferrier, who sang in GCU performances of Handel's *Messiah* during the war, to Bryn Terfel, who made his mark in GCU's 1990 performance of Liszt's rarely heard oratorio *Christus*.

Soloists of the present generation who have benefited from GCU's policy of bringing forward exciting young artists include the soprano Jo Ann Pickens, the altos Jean Rigby and Ethna Robinson, the tenor Mark Tucker and the bass Michael George. GCU has also worked with many well-established soloists, including the sopranos Galina Vishnevskaya, Felicity Lott and Sheila Armstrong, the mezzo-soprano Catherine Wyn-Rogers, the altos Sarah Walker and Della Jones, the tenors Robert Tear, Dennis O'Neil, Martyn Hill, Anthony Rolfe Johnson and Neil Jenkins, the counter-tenor James Bowman, the baritones Thomas Allen, Willard White, David Wilson-Johnson and the bass Gwynne Howell.

GOLDSMITHS: The Present Day

Goldsmiths Choral Union continues to promote exciting and innovative programmes to engage its audiences.

These range from Sir Michael Tippett's challenging oratorio *The Mask of Time*, staged in 1988 at the Royal Festival Hall in the presence of the composer, to the choir's more traditional but equally fresh-sounding performances of Handel's *Messiah* and Bach's *Mass in B Minor*. GCU has also been chosen by the tenor Neil Jenkins to give the first London performances of his new translations of Bach's *St Matthew Passion*, *St John Passion* and *Christmas Oratorio*.

GCU's national and international profile has been significantly raised following appearances in 1989 at the International Music Festival in Valencia, Spain, where the choir performed the *Requiem* by Geoffrey Burgon, and at Snape Maltings, where GCU staged an extremely successful carol concert introduced by Brian Wright. The choir appeared in Summer 1998 at the Reims Festival, singing in the Cathedral, and at the Festival de Jean de la Fontaine, at Chateau Thierry. In the Summer of 2000 the choir performed at the Ghent festival and at Kortrijk, in Flanders. 2004 sees the choirs' latest overseas tour to Barcelona.

Each Summer, GCU lives up to its wide reputation for musical enthusiasm and friendliness by opening the doors of its rehearsal venue at Baden Powell House to singers from other choirs to join its Summer Sings. These events, which are open to anybody and everybody for a modest charge, are a must for any choral singer who is stuck in the capital for the Summer and who may be feeling 'withdrawal symptoms' during his or her own choir's summer break. The GCU Summer Sings are workshop sessions of real value as well as pure entertainment, as GCU's Music Director Brian Wright leads the singers through a complete choral work in his own inimitable and highly informative manner.

GOLDSMITHS: Organisation, Administration & Funding

Organisation & Administration

Goldsmiths Choral Union is a Registered Charity (Registration No 1044507) and a Company Limited by Guarantee (Number England 3020834). Its patrons are the distinguished conductor Sir Charles Mackerras, the outstanding soprano Dr Elisabeth Legge-Schwarzkopf, and the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths. GCU is a leading member of the National Federation of Music Societies, the nation-wide support organisation for voluntary promoters of music in Britain.

The activities of GCU are regulated by its constitution, under which the choir is run by an elected committee working closely with its Music Director and Principal Conductor, Brian Wright. The committee and the Music Director participate together in making decisions concerning the choir's concert programmes and in setting and controlling GCU's budgets.

The choir promotes its' own concerts. The Secretary and Concerts Manager, both members of the choir, oversee the arrangements for each concert. They ensure, amongst other things, that delegated tasks relating to such matters as publicity, programme printing and ticket sales are carried out efficiently and on time.

Finance

GCU is self-financing, generating as much of its own funds as it can from concert ticket sales and subscriptions, from 'Friends' of GCU, and such areas as the sale of advertising space in concert programmes and by participating in performances promoted by others. The choir has also obtained funding from time to time from the London Arts Board. In addition the choir also raises money from its Summer Sings and holds fund raising events such as 'Auctions of Talents and Promises' and quiz nights.

GOLDSMITHS: Working with Charities

An extremely important part of Goldsmiths Choral Unions musical activities centres upon its involvement with national charities.

For much of the 1980's, GCU's annual Christmas carol concerts at the Royal Albert Hall were staged in collaboration with Save The Children Fund. Most of these concerts were given in the presence of the Fund's President, HRH the Princess Royal.

In 1988 GCU organised a carol concert at the same venue in aid of the charity Childline. Having established a link through this venture with British Telecom plc, the choir was fortunate in 1989 and 1990 to be able to promote further carol concerts at the Royal Albert Hall with BT sponsorship. Charities benefiting from the 1990 BT carol concert include Crisis, Help the Aged and The Children's Society.

In 1993, GCU gave its services at the annual Royal Concert, the proceeds from which benefit the Musicians Benevolent fund, Royal Society of Musicians and Incorporate Society of Musicians, all of which assist professional musicians in need. GCU has also promoted concerts at the South Bank Centre and the Barbican in aid of the Elizabeth Fitzroy Homes and the Jacqueline du Pré Memorial Fund.

In 2000 and 2001 the choir once again gave its services in carol concerts in aid of the Royal Hospital for Neuro-disability and also worked together with the British Red Cross. It has subsequently worked with Stage for Age in support of Help the Aged.

GOLDSMITHS: Stage, Screen, Radio & Recordings

Goldsmiths Choral Union often joins other choirs in concerts and special events. In July 1977, it participated in Sir William Walton's *Belshazzar's Feast* to mark the Greater London Council's Celebration of the Royal Silver Jubilee at Alexandra Palace. In 1980, another rousing performance of the work led to an invitation from director Tony Palmer for GCU to sing excerpts from *Belshazzar's Feast* for an ITV documentary on Sir William Walton called "At the Haunted End of the Day". The filming took place, appropriately enough, in the Great Hall of Goldsmith's College, with the Philharmonia Orchestra under the direction of Simon Rattle. The finished documentary later won the coveted Prix D'Italia for its director.

The choir's entry in the Large Choirs section of the BBC's "Let The Peoples Sing" Competition in 1981 was an interesting and new experience for the choir. The recordings of four contrasting *a capella* pieces were made in February, but the choir had to wait until the broadcast in August before it heard that it had won the UK final.

In 1999 GCU joined two other London Choirs to perform in the prestigious Royal Concert in aid of the Musicians' Benevolent fund at the Royal Albert Hall. The programme, performed in front of a Royal audience was broadcast live on BBC Radio 3 and included Handel's *Zadok the Priest* and Orff's *Carmina Burana*. GCU's radio association with *Carmina Burana* however goes much further back than 1999. The choir gave the first ever UK broadcast of the piece in the 1950s.

One of the most moving TV broadcasts the choir has been asked to take part in was a special edition of 'Songs of Praise' to mark the first anniversary of the 11 September terrorist attacks in the USA. The occasion was both poignant and uplifting and all those who took part counted it a privilege to be included in the special commemoration.

During 2003, GCU worked on a CD at the request of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra (RPO) to accompany their 2003/2004 concert series of popular classical music. The CD recorded with the RPO was released in November 2003 and contains many popular classics such as Parry's *I Was Glad*, an exhilarating performance of Handel's *Hallelujah Chorus*, the stirring *Sanctus* from Verdi's Requiem and extracts from both Mozart and Fauré Requiems,

amongst others. GCU performed these popular pieces of music with the RPO at the Royal Albert Hall in November 2003.



Goldsmiths Choral Union in the recording studio at Air Lyndhurst working with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra on the CD collaboration Summer 2003

GOLDSMITHS: Musical Direction

Brian Wright

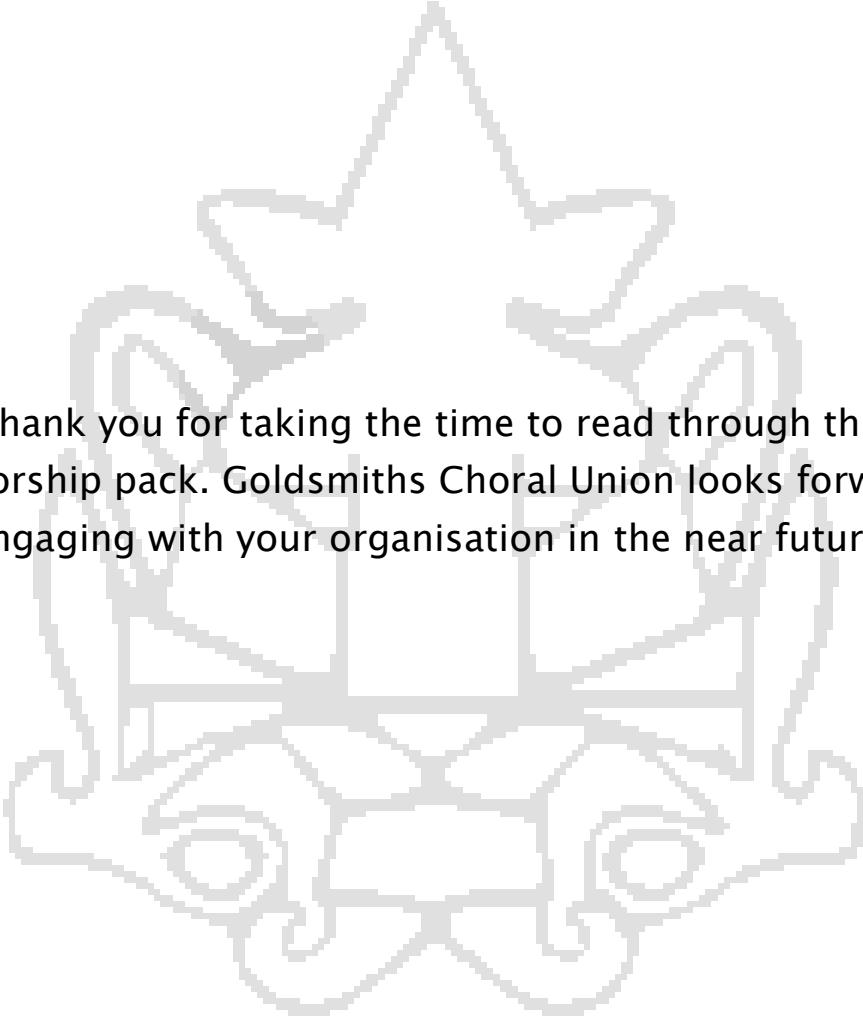


Brian Wright has been Music Director of Goldsmiths Choral Union for 30 years since taking over from the choir's founder, Frederick Haggis in 1973. Brian is renowned for his conducting of the symphonic choral repertoire. He is also one of the UK's most active conductors and has also enjoyed a career as a BBC Radio and Television broadcaster. Brian was assistant to André Previn and the

London Symphony Orchestra and Associate Conductor to the BBC for ten years, conducting hundreds of broadcast concerts, including acclaimed performances at the BBC Proms.

Brian has conducted every major British orchestra and given London concerts with the London Symphony Orchestra, the BBC Symphony Orchestra, the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, the Philharmonia, the English Chamber Orchestra and Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra amongst others. He has toured in Europe with the BBC Symphony Orchestra and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, and during the 1990s he was a guest conductor in Bulgaria, Canada, Hong Kong, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Mexico, Portugal and Switzerland. In 2000, Brian conducted a highly successful tour of China with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra including two concerts at the prestigious Shanghai International Music Festival. "*A great interpretation of Beethoven's 5th from a world class conductor and orchestra*", wrote the Shanghai Morning Express. Recently, Brian has been a guest conductor of the Singapore Symphony Orchestra, and has returned to China to conduct the Shanghai Symphony Orchestra.

Brian has made numerous recordings for EMI and the American Crystal label, and his most recent CD is of Spanish contemporary music with the London Philharmonic Orchestra for the Regis Tro label. Brian is currently also Music Director of Maidstone Symphony Orchestra, one of the UK's finest community orchestras, and a regular guest conductor throughout the UK and abroad.



Thank you for taking the time to read through this sponsorship pack. Goldsmiths Choral Union looks forward to engaging with your organisation in the near future.