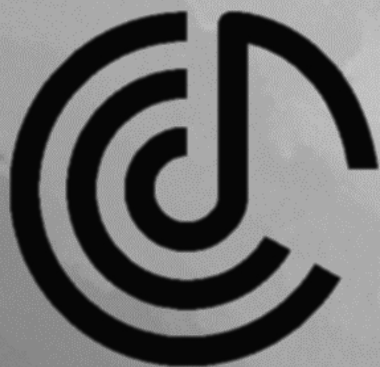


COME & SING

RUTTER'S REQUIEM
SUNG IN MEMORY OF
BRIAN LAW

WITH



**CHRISTCHURCH
CITY CHOIR**

SATURDAY, 23 MARCH 2024
KNOX CHURCH

JOHN LINKER – CONDUCTOR

Dr John Linker is Director of Music at Christ Church Transitional Cathedral (appointed 2014) where he leads the oldest musical entity in New Zealand, the Christ Church Cathedral Choir. John is also Music Director for Christchurch City Choir (appointed 2016), Canterbury's premiere symphonic choral ensemble. Both the Cathedral Choir and the City Choir are integral to the religious, artistic, and musical life of the Canterbury region, and provide cultural stability in the ever-changing landscape of Christchurch.



A native of Princeton, Illinois, USA, John holds music degrees from Northern Illinois University (Bachelor of Music), Chicago Musical College at Roosevelt University (Master of Music), and University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music (Doctor of Musical Arts).

JEREMY WOODSIDE - ORGAN

Jeremy was born in Christchurch, New Zealand, and his musical life began as a chorister at ChristChurch Cathedral; he was later Assistant Organist. He has held organ scholarships at Christ Church St Laurence, Sydney, Wells Cathedral and Westminster Abbey.

Jeremy holds a Bachelor of Music (First Class Honours) from the University of Canterbury where he was awarded the Lilburn Prize for Composition and Madrigal Prize for Excellence in Vocal Music, and a Masters in Organ Performance from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music.

His organ tutors have included Daniel Moulton, Thomas Trotter and David Briggs, and Jeremy holds performance diplomas (FTCL, ARCO).

Recital and accompanying work have taken Jeremy all throughout the UK, Australia, Singapore and Europe, as well as New Zealand. He regularly performs with the Christchurch Symphony Orchestra, both as soloist, choir accompanist and orchestral player, is an active composer, accompanist for Christchurch City Choir, and a répétiteur for Toi Toi Opera.



NICOLA HOLT - SOPRANO

Born in Dunedin, Nicola studied voice and piano performance at Otago University. She went on to complete a Masters degree in performance singing from Victoria University and a Diploma from the Koninklijk Conservatorium in The Hague, Holland.

Nicola has had many years experience as a soprano soloist, choral singer and musical director. While studying in Holland, Nicola performed throughout Europe with various professional ensembles. She is now a regular member of the Voices New Zealand Chamber choir. Nicola has recently moved to Christchurch and is enjoying teaching at The Cathedral Grammar School and Avonhead Primary School.



TOR CHILES - OBOE

Tor Chiles has been learning oboe for over 6 years and his teachers include Susan McKeich and Jenny Clapp. He was selected for the Specialist Music Programme at Burnside High School in 2020 and gained Grade 7 with Distinction in 2022. He is currently working towards recording a digital ATCL recital around the middle of this year. Tor is the Principal Oboe player in both the Christchurch Youth Orchestra and the Burnside High School Orchestra - he especially enjoys playing oboe in the orchestral setting. Last year his chamber group Dring Dong reached the Regional Finals of the Chamber Music NZ Competition. Tor hopes to be studying oboe or bassoon at either UC or NZSM next year.



BOB GAUDIN - CELLO

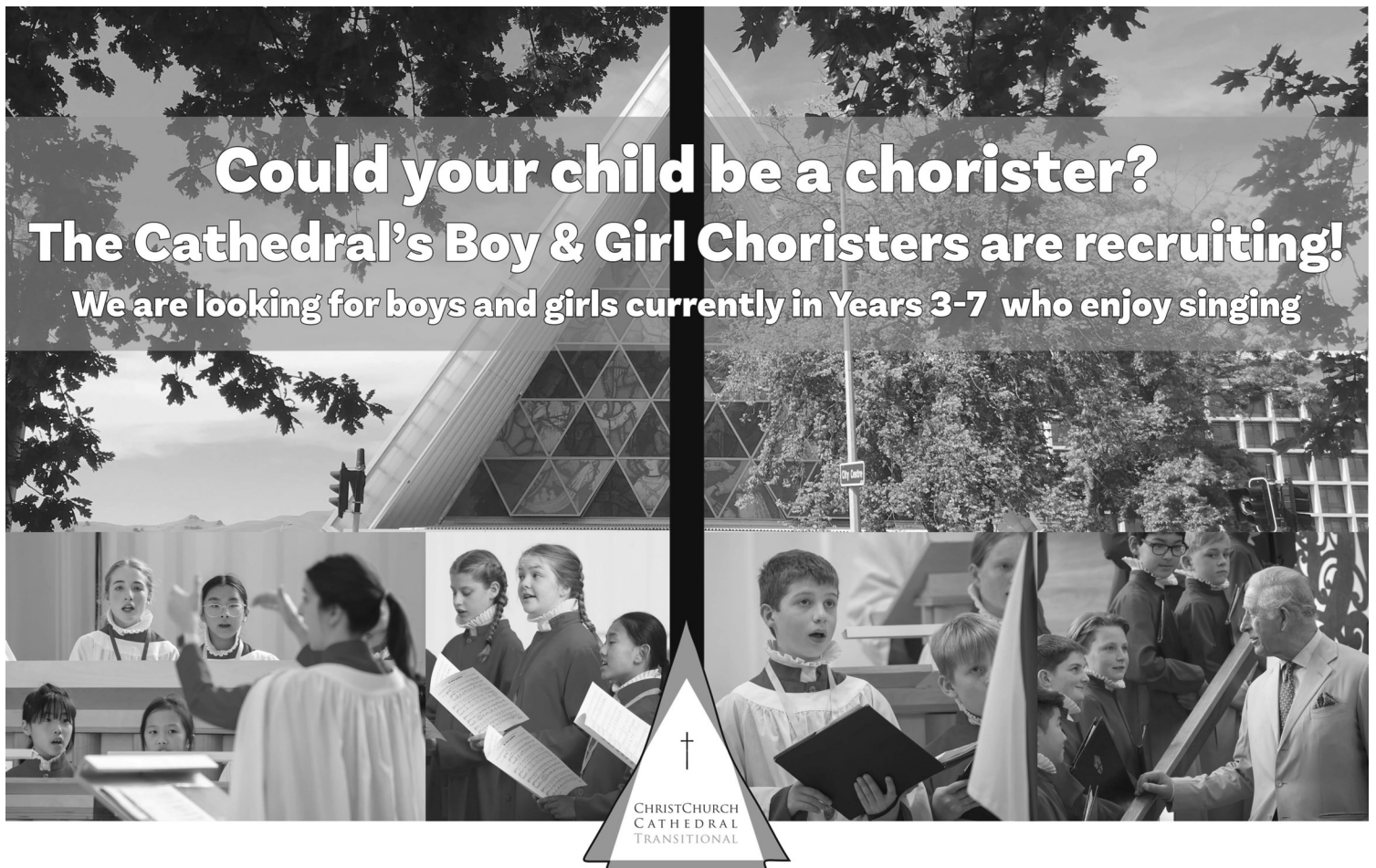
Bob Gaudin is a talented young conductor in Christchurch. He has worked with several orchestras; currently he is Assistant Conductor of the Sinfonia orchestra at Christchurch School of Music, as well as a frequent relief conductor for the other ensembles at the school. He also conducts two choirs, being the Christchurch Boys' Choir (an auditioned treble voice choir) and the church choir at St. Peter's in Upper Riccarton (Christchurch).

As a cellist he performs with the Christchurch Youth Orchestra as section principal, as well as frequently with other Christchurch orchestral ensembles like Resonance Ensemble. He also composes, having written a piece called *Landscape* for Christchurch Youth Orchestra which he conducted in their 2023 concert 'Concertos, Conductors and Composers'.



REQUIEM....John Rutter (b.1945)

1. Requiem aeternam
2. Out of the deep
3. Pie Jesu
4. Sanctus
5. Agnus Dei
6. The Lord is my shepherd
7. Lux aeterna

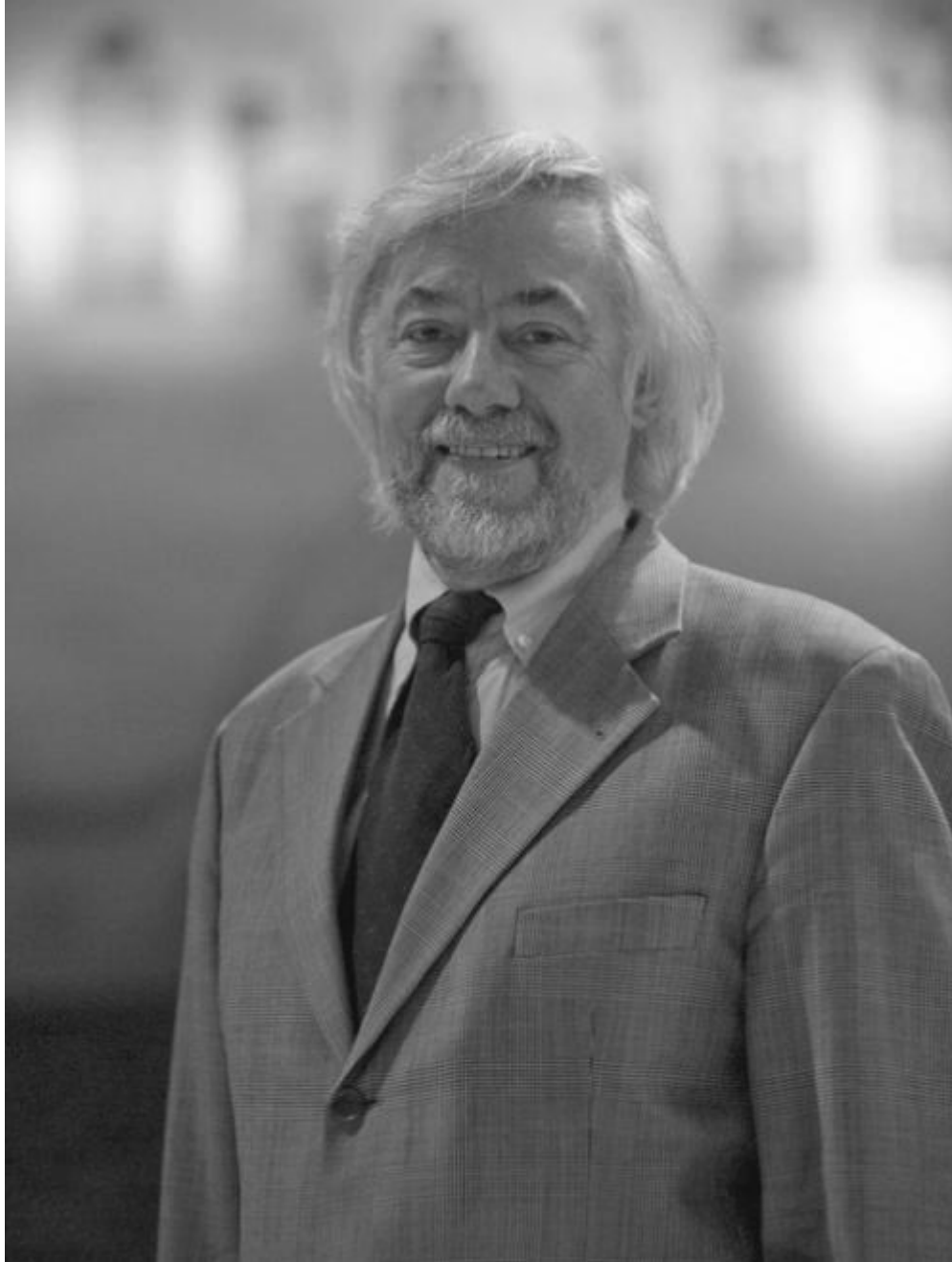


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CHRISTCHURCH
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Contact the Cathedral Director of Music Dr John Linker for details and further information
dom@christchurchcathedral.co.nz / 021 105 0961 / www.christchurchcathedral.co.nz

DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF
BRIAN LAW



Inaugural Music Director of the
Christchurch City Choir

Brian Law's obituary printed in

When the phone rang and the caller said "Hello, it's The Law", some feared impending arrest. However, it actually signalled an erudite and wide-ranging conversation with renowned Christchurch musician Brian Law. Sadly, those calls ended last month.

While Brian was acclaimed in Christchurch for leading its City Choir for 22 years, and Christ Church Cathedral Choir for twelve, his life and career was varied and global.

Born in Brighton in England in April 1943, Brian John Law early discovered a pronounced musical gift, despite no musical tradition in his family. The son of a baker, Law attended school in Brighton and loved playing the piano. By age seven, he was a choir boy, enjoyed choral singing at St Peter's Anglican church in Bristol, and later went to London to study at the Royal College of Church Music at Addington Palace. There, while escorting the Queen on a visit and discussing the huge amount of practice needed for his studies, Her Majesty confided she found it difficult to get Prince Charles to practise the piano. While Brian was being classically trained as a student organist, he also enjoyed jazz and played some gigs for Cleo Laine and Johnny Dankworth. He spent holidays on trans-Atlantic ships, playing piano into the early hours of the morning.

At the age of 21, Law left London to work in Ottawa, to take up the challenge of the musical scene there, in an environment he believed was "ripe for development." He stayed in Ottawa for 26 years working with many groups, including conducting the Ottawa Symphony Orchestra, the Ottawa Choral Society, the Arts Centre Orchestra, and founding the baroque ensemble Thirteen Strings. For 14 years he was organist and Choirmaster at Ottawa's St. Matthew's Anglican Church, where he brought the men's and boys' choir to a standard of excellence comparable to British collegiate and cathedral choirs - a skill he would later bring to Christ Church Cathedral.

During his final concert in Ottawa, Brian was awarded the Freedom of the City. The Brian Law Opera Scholarship was established to honour his contribution to opera there and it continues to award a substantial scholarship bi-annually, with many recipients progressing to international opera houses. In 2019, Brian accepted an invitation to visit Ottawa to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the scholarship.

In 1990, Christchurch's two symphonic choirs - the Royal Christchurch Musical Society and the Harmonic Choir - were merging to form the Christchurch City Choir. World-renowned conductor Franz Paul Decker was Chief Guest Conductor of the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra at the time, and learned of the impending merger and the new choir searching for a Music Director. He told the committee managing the transition Brian Law, a musical force in Ottawa, was looking for a new challenge.

Brian visited New Zealand later that year for an interview, after which he borrowed a car and set off to see New Zealand. He recounted realising one day, in a remote and beautiful part of New Zealand, that it was Christmas Day. He decided there and then a country where it was possible to be so casually oblivious was a country he would enjoy living in, which he did for the rest of his life.

Brian arrived in Christchurch in late 1991, in time to conduct his first performance of Handel's "Messiah". He produced a genuinely baroque (rather than Victorian) approach to the performance of "Messiah" and conducted the event from the harpsichord.

In his 22 years as Music Director of the Christchurch City Choir, Brian directed 103 performances from 53 different composers across the range of five centuries. That repertoire included Requiems by Verdi, Benjamin Britten and Andrew Lloyd Webber, "The Dream of Gerontius", "Belshazzar's Feast", and exciting new works such as Paul Winter's "Missa Gaia/Earth Mass", "The Armed Man" and the Ngai Tahu work "Ahua" (written for the 150th anniversary of the Canterbury Settlement), sung in te reo Māori. Brian also conducted them singing jazz, the "Night at the Opera" series and the hugely popular annual "Classical Sparks in the Park" event.

The Press on 28 January 2024

Dame Malvina Major recalls the first time he conducted Don Giovanni for Canterbury Opera. She was in the lead role and recalls "it quickly became obvious Brian was a very talented musician and conductor, with an empathy for singers' breathing."

She had a contract with the NZSO for five recordings, with three still to record. She says Brian made it happen, plus other recordings including Cathedral Grammar School and Spreydon Boys' choirs with the CSM Chamber Choir, Christchurch City Choir and members of the Christchurch Symphony Orchestra, which to her demonstrated Brian's skill to co-ordinate people of different ages and abilities. Brian soon became Dame Malvina's conductor whenever possible.

One highlight, among many musical events for the pair, was Dame Malvina being invited to sing at Queen Noor's charity festival in Jordan, coinciding with an invitation to perform a concert in the dessert outside Cairo. Brian conducted the Cairo Symphony in what Dame Malvina describes as "an astounding performance in the Sound & Light area by the Sphinx."

In 2003, the Cathedral's Director of Music retired. Brian was asked to help out over Christmas, and then asked to apply for the full-time position.

Former Dean, Peter Beck recalls:

"Our worship was brilliantly enhanced - he had a deep sensitivity to spirituality. From Christmas Midnight Mass, to our monthly contemplative service, to the high jinks we got up to in our annual Kidsfest services, and the hugely popular and fun Children's Christmas Service with Animals, to the regular pattern of Choral Evensong and Eucharist, he was a musical star who had an innate sense of the profound and deep meaning and intention of our worship."

He retired more than ten years later, after seeing his beloved Choir tour the UK for more than a month, including singing every service of a week in London's Westminster Abbey and a London concert with Dame Malvina and Hayley Westenra. After the 2011 earthquakes, Brian saw his choir firmly ensconced in the Transitional "Cardboard" Cathedral and commented his time in the Cathedral brought his career full circle.

More than two full generations of Cathedral Choristers and many of the Choir's adults remember him for his musical brilliance, humour, generous sharing of extensive knowledge and vocabulary, and, on occasion, "the look" to get attention.

A vital theme of Law's life of musical service was mentoring singers. This includes former Cathedral Chorister Christopher Bruerton, now in the King's Singers, and British-born Paul Halley, a Grammy Award-winning classical composer, choral conductor, organist, keyboardist and vocalist in Canada.

Though he had a high public profile, Brian loved the quiet life and countryside. He and Dame Malvina purchased 'Waianiwa', a small landholding at Greendale, where they created a superb garden and enjoyed 18 years together. A popular fundraising item for the City Choir was magnificent meals there, catered by Brian, before he moved to the outskirts of Oxford, then to Whitecliffs.

Dame Malvina believes "Brian's talent was under-utilized, or rather his ability could have been better recognized across the world had he chosen to travel, but he was content living in New Zealand."

At heart, Brian Law was a private, even reclusive, deeply erudite and reflective man. He died peacefully at his home at Whitecliffs on Monday, 27 November 2023.

We salute Brian Law the legend, polymath and musical virtuoso who practised his chosen and demanding craft in three nations, honouring us by coming to live in Canterbury, and sharing his vitality, demanding professionalism, commitment to musical excellence, deep humanity and generosity.

Chris Oldham & Yvonne Densem

CHRISTCHURCH CITY CHOIR

CONDUCTOR John Linker

ACCOMPANIST Jeremy Woodside

SOPRANOS

Elinor Bain
Maureen Bain
Isabel Carlyon
Elizabeth Christensen
Margaret Cornwall
Wendy Cox
Nelly Daudova
Catherine Gerslov-Wright
Amy Hill
Silke Kellig
Roslyn Kerr
Catherine Law
Lousie McDermott
Julie McGeorge
Lisa McGonigle
Lynne McKenzie
Tanja Mitrovic
Nicole Moffat
Eva Munro
Rebecca Porton-Whitworth
Victoria Rosin
Christine Rowe
Kathy Stone
Roisin Varley
Lyn Wain
Heather Johns Young
Aija Zandberga
Matilda Abbott (Guest)
Ruby Connor (Guest)
Margot Holcroft (Guest)
Theodore Holcroft (Guest)
Janet Robinson (Guest)
Kathy Watson (Guest)

ALTOS

Rosemary Allison
Claire Arnold
Vaklina Atanassova
Bernice Baker
Noeline Blackburn
Phillippa Boleyn
Pamela Butler
Maria Carter
Lois Chick
Sara Clarke
Johan Dalkie
Joanna Dodgshun
Stephanie Gilks
Helen Gilmore
Margaret Hawkes
Lydia Hight
Jocelyne Hill
Deborah Howell
Diane Hopkins
Paula Jameson
Gillian King
Karina Leppik
Rosemary McBryde
Rosie McCormick
Kerry McDougall
Libby Newcombe
Susan Penfold
Rebecca Radford
Robin Ryburn
Karen Swanson
Catharina Treeby
Jan Zajac
Birgit Zirn
Sherryn Allan (Guest)
Robin Srew (Guest)
Niki Davis (Guest)
Pauline Harris (Guest)
Judy Harvey (Guest)
Kate Linvingston (Guest)
Wendy Paris (Guest)
Elizabeth Payntor (Guest)
Ann Shave (Guest)

TENORS

Stephen Belkin
Jacob Craw
Matthew Langdon
Mark Ogilvie
David Whitehead
Roland Diez (Guest)
Alex Luhrs (Guest)
Mike MacLeod (Guest)

BASSES

Maurice Barnes
Stephen Beuzenberg
Philip Brazier
Douglas Bridges
Kahu Gray
Richard Hill
Ray Hsu
Oscar Kersey
Barry Mackenzie
Nicholas McBryde
Richard McCubbin
Richard Milne
Paddy Newton
Dave Nicholl
Craig Paterson
Hugh Stevenson
Sebastian Wilberforce
John Dodgshun (Guest)
Howard Harvey (Guest)
Peter Kershaw (Guest)
Graham Marr (Guest)
Ken Shields (Guest)

CHRISTCHURCH CITY CHOIR BOARD

CHAIR Philip Brazier
TREASURER Jocelyne Hill
BOARD MEMBERS Joanna Dodgshun, Mark Ogilvie, Richard Milne, Margaret Hawkes and Heather Young

CHOIR ADMINISTRATOR Charlotte Ensor
ACCOUNTS ADMIN Murray Baty
NEW MEMBERS AND RECRUITMENT COORDINATOR Heather Young

2024 SEASON

8 JUN

CHRISTCHURCH
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3 AUG

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7 DEC

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MESSIAH**