

IPSWICH ARTS ASSOCIATION with CHRIS GREEN

This Saturday, 20 April marks an important occasion for the Ipswich Choral Society. Joined by members of another of England's oldest choral societies, The Halifax Choral Society, the members of Ipswich's Choral Society celebrate 200 years of existence. They perform Haydn's *The Creation* at Snape Maltings accompanied by the Britten Sinfonia and conducted by Robin Walker. The oratorio was the first major work performed by the infant Society and it is fitting that they return to it for this important occasion. The concert starts at 7pm.



Ipswich Choral Society. Credit: ICS

What perhaps current members of the Society do not realise is that Haydn visited Suffolk. In an article I wrote some years ago I recorded his short visit to the home of Sir Patrick Blake in Bardwell. Haydn was already a celebrity, and the social and musical whirl of places like Paris and London came as a contrast to the relatively isolated life at the Esterhazy court. He arrived in January 1791, gave concerts at the Hanover Rooms in London, received an honorary degree at Oxford in March and we know that he travelled a bit. How did Haydn get an invitation from this particular person? What was the connection between the composer and Sir Patrick Blake with whom he stayed for a few days? Either way, he came- and went back via Cambridge.

Ten years after his Suffolk visit, his other major oratorio – *The Seasons* – was first performed. Since then, performance practices have changed- instrument design and choral forces have changed as conductors try to achieve a sound more likely to be heard by the composer. Paul

McCreesh is a specialist in the performance of music from the Classical period and his recording of *The Seasons* starts with a brilliant introduction to spring in a Signum recording and what follows in this new performing edition by the conductor reflects the glorious way in which the composer brings seasonal colours to his forces. The purchaser of this double CD album is treated to an accompanying booklet that provides the revised text and an introduction by McCreesh to his approach (Signum SIGCD 480).

On the same night as the Ipswich Choral Society performs, the Orwell Singers give a concert. On Saturday 20th April the all-female voice choir perform at St Michael and All Angels Church, Martlesham Heath, at 7.30pm. They will be joining forces with Manchester based upper voices choir, Bravura, who are coming to Ipswich in response to the Orwell Singers visiting and singing with them in Manchester last year. The programme will be an eclectic mix of musical styles ranging from light classical to jazz to songs from stage and screen. The following morning Bravura will also be singing at Christchurch Mansion. For further details please contact d.sharman@btinternet.com or 07768 911512.



Orwell Singers. Credit Orwell Singers.

Women's voices are to be heard in consort at another venue also on Sunday 21 April at 3pm when the afternoon concert at St Andrew's Church, Rushmere St Andrews features *The Accidentals*. This is a welcome return by this six-piece female vocal harmony group from Sudbury with its repertoire of popular music from the 1940s up to the present.

Looking ahead to next week, there is yet more music to enjoy with Trianon Music Group presenting *From Italy with love*. Conducted by Stephen Rumsey the concert on Saturday 27 April will treat audiences with a cornucopia of music from baroque with Vivaldi, operatic excerpts and the pomp of Respighi's *Pines of Rome* finale Roman legions marching, with Puccini's *Messa di Gloria* providing the second half in the concert to be given in St John's Church, Cauldwell Hall Rd, Ipswich. See the [Trianon website](#) for details of tickets.

If you have a story to share with other organisations, please email IAA chairperson, Professor Chris Green at: cjc.green@talktalk.net
