

The History of Bedford Messiah Choir



Overview

Bedford Messiah Choir has been performing Handel's Messiah in Bedford every year since 1937, apart from a short break during the war years. In fine ecumenical spirit, choristers from local churches of many different denominations, together with other local singers, combine resources to rehearse for four weeks and then perform this great work in Bedford at the start of the Advent season.

Over the years we have performed with many different soloists, often local, and often at the threshold of their musical careers, and it is of great interest for us to watch their careers progress and their national and international reputations grow.

The very first performance of Messiah in Dublin was in aid of charity, and this is a tradition which we are proud and privileged to continue.

Bedford Messiah Choir 1937 – 2019

The choir traces its origins to an initiative in 1937 when singers from a number of local churches pooled their resources in undertaking the first of what would become an annual performance of Handel's Messiah in Bedford. Despite changing its name several times, the choir has succeeded in maintaining this annual tradition, apart from a brief break during the war years.

By the year 2000, the choir had become known as the Bedford Messiah Choir but did not formally adopt a constitution until 22 October 2006. In the following year, we were granted Charity Status - Charity number 1117616.