A personal message from the Founder and President of Cardiff Bach Choir –

**Clifford Bunford.**

In this Jubilee Year it is fitting to take a look at the history of this wonderful organisation.

The formation of the Cardiff Bach Choir in 1962 came about as a result of the many performances I made as a professional tenor soloist with the Gwent Bach Society, a small choir specialising in baroque music. These performances prompted the desire to take this wonderful music to a wider audience. I formed a small group of twenty singers and, with my wife who was later to become our invaluable accompanist, I researched the 200 extant Church Cantatas to identify suitable works for performance by the newly formed Cardiff Bach Choir.

In the following years the Choir regularly performed music from this magnificent treasure trove of neglected masterpieces, raising the reputation of the choir and giving appreciative audiences an understanding of Bach's greatness. The choirs repertoire expanded to include other music from the baroque and earlier years and included works by Schutz, Purcell, Monteverdi and Gabrieli (many not previously performed in this area) further enhancing the choir's reputation as a leading amateur performer in the City.

However the desire to perform some of the larger works of Bach such as the two Passions and the B Minor Mass, Handel 's oratorios and his acclaimed Dixit Dominus necessitated the need for greater forces. Thus the membership of the choir expanded reaching at its peak some eighty five voices. Inevitably, as time passed the choir, whilst retaining its original name and regularly performing Bach's works, explored music from succeeding centuries. Music by Haydn, Mozart, Mendelssohn and Brahms became part of its repertoire. Further exploration into 20th century music increased the repertoire to include works such as Walton's Belshazzars Feast and the first performance in Wales of Britten's War Requiem at St David Hall.

In 2002 age began to catch up with me and I handed the baton and directorship to the proficient hands of Dr Timothy Taylor, whose fine musicianship and expertise has ensured the continued excellence of the Choir.

The choir brought me 40 years of fun and enjoyment and wonderful music making with enthusiastic musicians. I would like to thank the loyal members of the choir past and present, some still from the very early years (spot the grey hairs) who survived my strictures and moods and my sometimes rather pathetic jokes for so long. Such resilience and dedication is testament to the influence of Bach and his music on people's lives.

Pob Lwc a Llongyfarchiadau

Clifford Bunford.