

Jersey Festival Choir: 2023 Activities

The **Festival of Carols** at St Thomas church took place on the **13th December 2023**. The church was almost full with the vast majority of seating taken and the choir was able to enjoy the traditional reception after the event which was well received by the choir members.

A short video clip of the evening is available on our [Facebook page](#)

A sum of £3300 was raised for Motor Neurone Disease Association (Jersey Branch)



Once in Royal David's City

JFC Ding! Dong! Merrily on high

JFC. [Mary, did you know?](#)

It came upon the midnight clear

Holmchase

Orchestral item

God rest you merry, Gentlemen

-

Organ item

JFC O Little Town of Bethlehem

Silent Night

JFC Jesus Child

JFC. Little Drop of Heaven

The First Nowell -

Holmchase

Minuit, Chrétien

Appeal – MNDA Jersey

O Come All Ye Faithful

The full programme can be accessed [here](#).



SOUP KITCHEN		
In Aid Of The Shelter Trust For The Homeless		
MENU		
Minimum suggested donation £3.00, including bread!		
Please order by number and have 1st, 2nd and 3rd choices ready		
1	Carrot and Ginger Soup	Bethesda Bar & Restaurant V GF MF
2	Coofflower, Curry and Coconut Soup	Longerella Manor V VG GF MF
3	Chicken & Coconut from the Skat	Tilly the Dog Bar & Bistro GF MF
4	Chicken Labrador and Sweetcorn Soup	Samples GF
5	Cream of Winter Caper Chicken and Mushroom Soup	Merton Hall V
6	Creamy Cauliflower Soup	12-12 Jersey V
7	Corried Caper and Butternut Squash Soup	Jersey Post V
8	Corried Goat, Rice and Pea Soup	The Seaside Trust V
9	French Onion Soup	Benetton College V
10	Harira - Moroccan Tomato, Chickpea & Lentil Soup	The Moorings Hotel & Restaurant VG GF MF
11	Indian Winter Vegetable and Bean Soup	12 Top GF
12	Lancashire Hotpot with Pickled Red Cabbage	The Atlantic Hotel GF GF MF
13	Leek and Potato Soup	Bathurst Hill Methodist Hall V GF MF
14	Leek, Potato and Pea Potage	Gabridge Group VG GF
15	Leek and Chorizo Soup	Bateau GF
16	Leek and Vegetable Soup	Parsons C/O Hotel V VG GF MF
17	Lightly Spiced Jersey Root Vegetable Soup	Highways College V VG GF MF
18	Lightly Spiced Lentil and Potato Soup	Jersey College for Arts V VG GF MF
19	Mediterranean with Basil	The Postcode V VG GF MF
20	Moroccan Spiced Lentil and Vegetable Soup	Hayes Catering VG GF MF
21	Mulligatawny Soup	Clifford Restaurant V VG GF MF
22	Pasta Purgatory	La Capucine VG GF
23	Potato and Mushroom Soup	Le Pique Hotel VG GF
24	Pumpkin Soup	The Tea House at Bannock VG GF MF
25	Red Lentil and Bean Soup	Benetton College V VG GF MF
26	Red Thai Chicken & Sweet Potato Soup	Merry Trail GF
27	Roasted Parsnips and Cauliflower Cheese Soup	Jersey College V VG GF MF
28	Roasted Parsnips and Butternut Squash Soup	Domus Hotel V VG GF MF
29	Roasted Parsnips & Butternut Squash Soup	Domus Restaurant V VG GF MF
30	Spiced Roasted Parsnips Soup	Uxbridge Beach Hotel & Spa V VG GF MF
31	Spiced Root Veg	Grand Jersey Hotel & Spa VG GF MF
32	Sweet Potato, Celeriac and Coconut Soup	Delia Hotel GF MF
33	Thai Red Curry Soup	The Royal Hotel GF MF
34	Tomato Soup	Cathkin V
35	Traditional French Shepherd's Pie with Vegetables	Morocco Community in Jersey V
36	Warming Roasted Red Pepper & Tomato Soup	Government House V GF
37	Winter Vegetable Patch, Sweetcorn, Beans & Rice Soup	Jack-in-the-Box VG GF
V: Vegetarian VG: Vegan GF: Gluten Free DF: Dairy Free MF: Nut Free		
Proudly Supported By:		

The Festival Choir supported another very successful **Soup Kitchen** event in the Royal Square on 12th December.

We needed to [shelter](#) but only for showers. Another clip is [here](#).

By the time the choir had finished at 1.30, there was only two soups left from a starting list of 37!

1st June 2023 at 7.30pm:
 Concert at Georgetown Methodist Church to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the church.



Liberation Day May 9th 2023

The choir was singing once again in Liberation Square to help to animate the service and the celebrations - and our spirits weren't dampened by the occasional drizzle and grey skies (as evidenced by the obscured view of Fort Regent in the background)

Coronation Concert Sunday May 7th 2023

Our Spring concert for 2023 in St Helier Methodist Centre was staged in partnership with Music In Action and the Jersey Chamber Orchestra as we sang to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III.

The programme included

Zadok the Priest - G.F. Handel (the opening was spine-tingling... see [here](#))

The Marriage of Figaro - The Count's Aria
- Soloist Jonathan Brown

Symphony No. 98 in Bb Major - J. Haydn

Exsultate, Jubilate - W.A. Mozart -
Soloist Chen Reiss

Coronation Mass in C Major (K317)- W.A. Mozart ([here](#) is a short clip of the Kyrie)

Soloists Chen Reiss (Soprano), Lawrence Zazzo (Alto), Mark Dobell (Tenor) and Jonathan Brown (Baritone)

This concert was made possible by the kind support of the Roy Overland Trust.

A review of the concert was kindly covered in the Jersey Evening Post

© Jersey Evening Post, see Appendix A

Music in Action
presents

CORONATION CONCERT

JERSEY CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

7.30^{PM} SUN 7TH MAY 2023

**Jersey
Festival Choir**

WITH
SOLOISTS
**Chen Reiss
Lawrence Zazzo
Mark Dobell
Jonathan Brown**

CONDUCTOR
Eamonn Dougan



PROGRAMME INCLUDES:
CORONATION MASS - MOZART
ZADOK THE PRIEST - HANDEL
SYMPHONY NO 28 - HAYDN
EXULTATE JUBILATE - MOZART

ST HELIER METHODIST CHURCH

Tickets: £10-£35 Children £1-£3.50
From: Eventbrite & 767547

 www.musicjersey.com  SCAN ME

Eisteddfod Choral Showcase

Wednesday 15th March 2023 at 7.30pm at St Helier Methodist Centre

The choir sang in the non-adjudicated Eisteddfod Choral Showcase with a number of other choirs where we had the opportunity to listen to each other - the first time for some singers.

The choir sang the Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves (from Nabucco by Verdi), Little Willow (Paul McCartney) and Achieved is the Glorious Work (from Haydn's The Creation).



ARTS

A Coronation concert to reme

The Jersey Chamber Orchestra, along with the Jersey Festival Choir and guest soloists, performed to a standing ovation at St Helier Methodist Centre recently as part of the Liberation International Music Festival. **Mark Tarik** was there



■ Chen Reiss, Lawrence Zazzo, Mark Dobell and Jonathan Brown singing Mozart's Coronation Mass

THE Jersey Chamber Orchestra, under the direction of Eamonn Dougan, delivered an extraordinary performance that was nothing short of magical for their recent Coronation Concert.

The programme was a delightful mix of Handel, Haydn and Mozart, showcasing the immense talent of both the orchestra and the soloists and finished with a standing ovation.

The concert opened with Handel's *Zadok the Priest*, and from the very first notes, the orchestra transported the audience to a world of regal elegance and grandeur. The precision and unity of the musicians were truly impressive, and Mr Dougan's expert conducting allowed the music to flow effortlessly.

Many in the audience commented on the 'wow' factor of the Festival Choir's thunderous entry as they launched into the climactic start for the choir after that immense build-up from the strings and wind. No one could say that any of the choir was late to the party.

The Count's Aria by Mozart was an absolute treat, with soloist Jonathan Brown delivering a stunning vocal performance that left the audience in awe. His deep sonorous tones, effortless control and beautifully expressive yet commanding voice were the perfect match for Mozart's composition as the Count muses on the next steps.

The Jersey Chamber Orchestra supported with great subtlety and poise. Jonathan was one of two soloists who performed at the actual Coronation at Westminster Abbey and it was a real treat and a coup to see them live in Jersey.

Next came Haydn's *Symphony No. 98*, and the orchestra's musicianship shone brightly as they navigated the piece's intricate melodies and complex rhythm, led by the chief conductor.

The orchestra's attention to detail was evident, and the performance was nothing short of sublime, exhibiting some beautiful phrasing.

The slow movement tied the piece into the theme of the concert with the opening phrase being more than a passing resemblance to *God Save the King* before resolving the phrase into a delightful different ending.

The frenetic final movement communicated great joy in its exuberant phrases and the final cheeky yet uplifting moments were a wonder to behold.

The highlight of the evening was, for

many, Mozart's *Exultate Jubilate*, sung by soloist Chen Reiss.

Demonstrating why she has been a regular at such venues as the Vienna Opera House, Royal Opera House and the Metropolitan in New York, her voice was beautiful, pure, and filled with emotion, and she conveyed the spiritual and emotional depth of the piece with incredible skill and sensitivity. The orchestra provided the perfect accompaniment, allowing her voice to soar and giving the audience a special treat.

The concert closed with Mozart's *Coronation Mass*, featuring the Jersey Festival Choir and all four soloists – Chen Reiss, Lawrence Zazzo, Mark Dobell and Jonathan Brown.

I am told that three of the choir had sung together in one of the great Cambridge choirs of the 1990s – Clare College Choir, which spun out so many remarkable singers. They were supported by the choir's energy and enthusiasm which were infectious.

Particularly impressive was the bounce of the sopranos and the expressive faces which were matched by a vibrant tone. The Festival Choir was well balanced and this was one of the best performances that I have seen.

The soloists each brought their unique vocal qualities to the performance. At times Chen duetted with the sensitive lines of tenor Mark Dobell – another who sang at the Coronation in Westminster Abbey, at other times with counter-tenor Lawrence Zazzo, who is feted as one of the world's finest.

Chen's *Agnus Dei* was a real delight, showing great control and projection in the lower notes in the register while effortlessly singing the beautiful lines. The orchestra provided a perfect backdrop, supporting the voices with sensitivity and grace.

Overall, the Jersey Chamber Orchestra's performance under Eamonn Dougan's direction was simply breathtaking. The musicianship and artistry of both the orchestra and soloists were truly exceptional, and the programme was a perfect balance of regal elegance, playful charm, and spiritual depth.

It was a night to remember, and I cannot wait to see what this talented ensemble will bring to the stage in the future.

The standing ovation to conclude the concert was a fitting end to the evening.