

Arts



With Adrian Mullen

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All set for a



▲ Staveley Choral Society conductor Sue Osmaston

CHRISTMAS spirit of the choral kind is ready to unleash itself across the region as the guys and gals from our choral societies tune up for their respective festive gatherings.

Kendal Choral Society, conducted by Alan Gardner, presents an evening of Christmas music at Kendal Parish Church tomorrow (Saturday, December 8) at 7.30pm.

The centrepiece of the performance will be Bach's *Christmas Oratorio*, parts 1, 2 and 3.

Soloists include soprano Tracie Penwarden and contralto Janet Hoyle.

The tenor soloist will be Richard Pollock who, as a talented post graduate student from the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, made his debut with the choir in May when he impressed the audience with his solo performance in Puccini's *Messa di Gloria*.

The bass soloist, William Hay, is performing with the choir for the first time although he is no stranger to Kendal and is the son of choir member Gordon Hay.

Tickets cost £8 (concessions £7) with entrance for under 16s free. They are available at the door or from choir members.

Elsewhere, Ulverston's Bach Choir stages *Echoes of Bohemia* tomorrow (Saturday, 8pm) at St James the Great Church at Barrow.

Under the musical direction of Anthony Milledge, the programme is packed with choral and instrumental music of the 18th Century from the pens of Czech composers with the orchestra led by Roland Fudge and Colin Dean on the organ.

Admission is by programme, priced £8 (students £5) and these are available from the Tinner's Rabbit Bookshop at Ulverton or at the door on the night.

The musical life of Staveley Choral Society,



ADRIAN SELF with members of Cartmel Choral Society, who are set to hit the top notes on December 15.

directed by Sue Osmaston, has been greatly enhanced in the last two years by the arrival of several singers from other, now defunct, choral societies.

Sue tells me that both Burneside and Windermere choirs were unable, for various reasons, to continue and many of their former members have augmented the ranks of Staveley Choir.

The choir's Christmas concert will take place next Monday (December 10) at 7.30pm, in Staveley Village Hall, and will include a choir of children from Staveley Primary School, and a talented young student from Kendal's Queen Katherine School, trumpeter James Perkins.

The programme includes *Welcome Yule* by Herbert Parry; *Gloria tibi Domine* (an arrangement of 15th Century words) by Mack Wilberg; *How Far is it to Bethlehem?* in which the children will join with the adult choir; and

two carols from the Georgian period: *Hark the Herald Angels Sing* and *While Shepherds Watched*. Both will be sung in the lively West Gallery tradition and very different from the usual well-known versions. In addition, there will be a number of carols for audience participation.

Tickets cost £5 adults / 50p for accompanied children and are available from Staveley Pharmacy or at the door.

Meanwhile, Cartmel Choral Society will be in splendid voice again at Cartmel Priory on Saturday, December 15 (7.30pm) for an evening of Christmas carols as well as *Te Deum* by Georges Bizet and Stanford's *Three Motets* written for unaccompanied choirs. The choir will once more be guided by Cartmel's 'Mr Music' conductor Adrian Self and accompanied by organist Ann Bond. Admission is £6/ children free.