

Conductor - Ashford Choral Society

Ashford Choral Society, founded in 1857, is probably the oldest choral society in Kent. Mark Deller, its conductor for the past 50 years, retires at the end of this season, and the Society is considering applications for his successor, to start in September 2019.

The Society, with 120 members, meets on Tuesday evenings from September to early May for weekly rehearsals 7.30-9.15pm, and traditionally gives three/four concerts each season. Two of these are given with a fully professional orchestra and are held in the Colyer-Fergusson Concert Hall at the University of Kent in Canterbury; the other two in Wye and Ashford parish churches are performed with organ accompaniment. The Society is fortunate in having an excellent, professional accompanist who has indicated willingness to continue in post.

Major works recently performed include: Bach *Mass in B minor* and *St John Passion*, Vaughan Williams *A Sea Symphony*, Tippett *A Child of our Time*, Elgar *The Dream of Gerontius*, *The Music Makers* and *The Spirit of England*, Walton *Belshazzar's Feast* and Mendelssohn's *Elijah*. The Society is working this season on Bach's *Christmas Oratorio*, Britten *A Ceremony of Carols* and *Rejoice in the Lamb*, and Mozart and Verdi's *Requiem*s.

Applicants will be expected to have had experience in working with keen amateur singers, and conducting large scale works with orchestra. Fees for rehearsals and concerts are negotiable, based on current rates, but will depend on the relative experience of applicants.

Anyone wishing to apply should write to the Chairman Alan Paterson, Sutton End, 65c Oxenturn Road, Wye TN25 5AY, or by e-mail to him at fieldbank@btinternet.com enclosing a full CV. Closing date for applications will be 14th December 2018, and auditions will be held early in the New Year.