

**Press release:**

**Choirs from Hannover and Bristol join forces to mark  
77th anniversary of Bristol-Hannover twinning**



Bristol Choral Society at the Bristol Beacon singing Verdi's Requiem.

On Saturday June 29<sup>th</sup> 2024, Bristol Beacon plays host to the joint forces of Bristol Choral Society and the Hannover Oratorienchor. The concert marks the 77<sup>th</sup> anniversary of one of the first twinning arrangements set up between Germany and England in 1947, just after the Second World War.

With news of conflict in so many parts of the world right now, Bristol and Hannover both know the value of peace in the UK and in Europe. Music has always brought us together with others, and that was also so following the Second World War. Ever since 1947 the Hannover-Bristol link has been celebrated with musical visits across the Channel, most recently in 2022 when the Bristol choir visited Hannover for a joint performance of Brahms' German Requiem.

It is not only music that joins our two cities. The Bristol Hannover Council supports youth football exchanges, dance, rowing and most recently a visit from a WW2 German training boat with its barrel of Hannover Gin and a cherry tree that was planted in the Bristol Botanic Gardens.

The concert on June 29<sup>th</sup> is a truly Bristolian event, accompanied by the fabulous Bristol Ensemble, and by organist Simon Hogan, a former chorister at St. Mary Redcliffe. This is also an opportunity for everyone to showcase and enjoy the newly refurbished Bristol Beacon, with three English composers who all had connections with the South West. The most deeply moving choral pieces are often born out of

grief and soul-seeking, and that was the case with Howells' 'Hymnus Paradisi', which Bristol and Hannover will sing together under the baton of award-winning young conductor, Hilary Campbell, and with the lovely soprano voice of Nina Bennett. The evening of celebration is completed with the harmonies of Vaughan-Williams' Serenade to Music and world-famous tenor Nick Pritchard singing the tenor solo in Finzi's 'Dies Natalis'.

Book your seats for this event here: <https://bristolbeacon.org/whatson/bristol-choral-society-howells-hymnus-paradisi/>



Hannoverscher Oratorienchor