

chansons

Perth's Chamber Choir

February 2019

Howard Duthie steps down as Music Director after 17 years

Perth's Chamber Choir, Chansons announces that after seventeen successful years as Musical Director of Chansons, Howard Duthie has decided that the time is now right to step down, and he will be retiring from the post this April. Guided by Howard, the Choir has built a reputation as Perth's preeminent chamber choir and been consistent in performing an extensive range of choral works at their quarterly concerts. Howard's last concert as Music Director will be the Choir's 40th Anniversary Concert 'Voice and Verse' taking place at St.John's Kirk of Perth on 28th April.

"We are truly grateful to Howard for the vision and passion he has brought to our choir community. We will miss him terribly but wish him well as he steps down after giving us 17 years of his time, expertise and enthusiasm" says Morna Strachan of Chansons Committee.

Following Howard's retirement, the new Music Director will be Areti Lympelopoulou commencing August 2019.

Originally from Patra in western Greece, Scotland has been Areti's home for the past ten years. As a MMus graduate from Birmingham Conservatoire, she moved to Scotland to train as a secondary music teacher and now teaches music at Douglas Academy in Milngavie. She boasts extensive experience with both youth and adult choirs, from community ensembles, to working as a choral coach for the National Girls' Choir, as well as holding the Sir Alexander Gibson Fellowship of the Royal Scottish National Orchestra Chorus for two seasons. The choir is delighted to welcome Areti and is looking forward to working with her.

Areti expresses, *"I am delighted and honoured to accept this role and I look forward to many years of music making with such an enthusiastic, talented and versatile group of singers."*

Howard Duthie is delighted that Areti Lympelopoulou has accepted the position as his successor, stating; *"It was a privilege for me to take over the baton of this wonderful choir from Henry Neil in 2002 and our journey together since then has provided me with more joy and satisfaction than can adequately be expressed in print. It's the singing itself which does all that, and I know that my successor, Areti Lympelopoulou, has the energy, passion and skill to lead and inspire her new choir in this spirit en route to their half-century and, I hope, beyond. I wish her and Chansons all good things for their future together."*

Chansons, will next perform at their 40th Anniversary concert, 'Voice and Verse' on 28th April, 7.30pm at St.John's Kirk of Perth. Tickets are available at www.chansons.co.uk.

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Chansons will be marking Howard's retirement as Music Director at a celebration dinner on Friday, May 10th. We invite all friends of the choir to join us for this special event. For further information and tickets click [here](#).

About Howard Duthie

Howard was educated at the Royal College of Music and Cambridge University (where he was Organ Scholar at Christ's College) and has since combined a career in teaching with a wide range of professional performing activities.

Based for many years in Edinburgh, he taught at the Royal High School before becoming Director of Music at George Heriot's School, a position he held for two decades, developing and expanding its distinguished orchestral and choral traditions and establishing important international musical links.

He was also organist and choirmaster at Greyfriars Kirk as well as serving as accompanist to the Scottish Philharmonic Singers (later SCO Chorus) and the Edinburgh Festival Chorus.

In autumn 2001 he finally saw the light and moved to Perthshire where he was Head of Music at Morrison's Academy in Crieff until his retirement from full-time teaching in 2010.

He has been Musical Director of the Perth-based choir Chansons since August 2002, and in 2009 conducted a highly-acclaimed performance of Bach's B Minor Mass in St John's Kirk to celebrate the choir's 30th anniversary.

In 2011 he was appointed Director of Music and Organist at St John's Kirk of Perth.

In addition to his choral and organ work he is active in other musical spheres, as conductor, accompanist, adjudicator, music reviewer and chamber musician.