

## Rochdale's weekly Midday Music Toad Lane Concerts at St Mary in the Baum Church in June 2026

Another richly varied month in this eclectic weekly music series. Classical guitar, tenor soloist and piano, classical harp duo and vocal ensemble

**3rd June 2026 - Richard Haslam classical guitar** - As one wit piped up at the end of the recital, 'it's amazing what you can do with a pretty little wooden box and half a dozen strings, isn't it?' Amazing indeed in Richard's hands - Derbyshire-born post-graduate RNCM after Hull Univ. He teaches privately in the Bury area and as instrumental tutor, Trafford Music Service. Giuliani, Tarrega, Gary Ryan, Walton and Latin American finale by contemporary Brazilian Sergio Assad – excellent sophisticated and varied programme.



**June 10 The Nightingale Singers:** mixed voice choir founded in 1987. Since 2004 directed by **Ken Greaves** contact [kcgreaves1@gmail.com](mailto:kcgreaves1@gmail.com).



Today's Nightingale songfest consisted of a variety of styles from musicals, Yiddish folk songs, Goodall's Psalm 23, Gersgwhin and Glenn Miller/Andrews Sisters. All interspersed with soloists from their midst, Alyson Brailsford, Liz Creagh, Jennifer Workman, & Martin McLoughlin. Much of it was *a capella* (unaccompanied), which calls for immense effort, concentration and practise, and also with piano obbligato provided by **Brian Milligan**. The

Nostalgic WW II finish lent a memorable flavour to an enjoyable choral concert.

**June 17 Jasmne Higgs soprano & Logan Ferris piano:** Jasmine has recently completed her master's at the RNCM. She is a lyric soprano with a range of operatic and recital repertoire. Logan is in his final year reading music at the University of Manchester. He is a first-study organist (in his second year was awarded the Procter-Gregg Prize). He is in demand accompanying and directing a wide range of groups and is currently sub-organist at Bolton Parish Church and an organist for the BBC R4 Daily Service. This accomplished pair of musicians, on the first steps of their promising careers, gave an enthusiastic and varied recital.



A terrific

encore by contemporary composer Jonathan Dove. Wow! That really set the place alight.

**June 24 Telemann Baroque Ensemble:** A fitting tribute to the memory of the late founder, Peter Collier. The merry band of players today consisted of regular members Alastair Roberts flute, Elaine da Costa & Sarah Snape violins, John Goodstadt viola, with Rosy Hickman cello (standing in for indisposed Roger Bisby) and Robin Shakespeare harpsichord (newly appointed as Director of Music at St Ann's Church, Manchester and who has been awarded the inaugural Peter Collier Bursary to Baroque Week). All experienced and highly valued musicians in the Northwest, their sound in the wonderful acoustics of St Mary in the Baum was an exquisite blend of joy and poignancy.



The Queen's Award-winning Toad Lane Concerts are every Wednesday at 12.30 pm at St Mary in the Baum, Toad Lane, Rochdale, OL16 1DZ. Entrance fee is £6. Contact 01706 648872 for further information.

**Dr Joe Dawson**