



### **Message from Peter Hoare to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Danesborough Chorus**

I joined Danesborough Chorus in 1984 at the suggestion of Ian Smith and a mutual friend and chorus pianist Vic Bainbridge. I was the peripatetic percussion teacher for the north Bedfordshire area at the time and had previously sung in my school choir, college choir, chamber choir, the Concord Singers in Bedford and thoroughly enjoyed all of it.

In 1992 at the suggestion of Bonaventura Bottone, a very successful opera and operetta soloist whose son I taught the drums, and with the blessing of my boss Ian Smith, I auditioned for Welsh National Opera (WNO) chorus and was offered a full-time post in the tenor section.

WNO were preparing for a recording of Britten's "Gloriana" to be conducted by Sir Charles Mackerras for which the chorus tenors were to audition for the small role of 'Master of Ceremonies'. I auditioned and was awarded the role but I had no idea how profoundly that audition would affect my life. Mackerras became my mentor and champion counselling me to resign my post and become a freelance soloist which, with great trepidation in 1994 I did.

Thirty years later I look back and see that I've sung in most of the great houses and concert halls in Europe and the USA for world famous conductors and with world class colleagues, and it all started here, with Danesborough Chorus.

One of the great joys in my life has been to occasionally return as soloist to sing with this wonderful choir and it is a great honour to be named President of the Chorus.

Many congratulations to Danesborough Chorus for the first 50 years of their singing. Not everyone progresses from chorus singing to soloist but singing is of great benefit to many and choirs like Danesborough Chorus provide these wonderful opportunities for countless people. I wish them every success for many more years to come.

Peter Hoare